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# Sexual assault: An examination of disclosure, reporting, and support among female university students

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*Eastern Illinois University*

This research is a product of the graduate program in [Family and Consumer Sciences](#) at Eastern Illinois University. [Find out more](#) about the program.

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SEXUAL ASSAULT: AN EXAMINATION OF DISCLOSURE,  
REPORTING, AND SUPPORT AMONG  
FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

SMITH

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Sexual Assault: An Examination of Disclosure,  
Reporting, and Support Among Female University Students

(TITLE)

BY

Tona E. Smith

THESIS

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF

Family and Consumer Sciences

IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL, EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

2004

YEAR

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## Abstract

The current study was completed to determine the prevalence (or extent) of non-reporting of sexual assault that occurs on a university campus. The results of the study were compared to national statistics as well.

The current study was guided by six research objectives: There were six main objectives of the study: (1) to determine the number of female participants who were aware of women who had experienced sexual assault, (2) to determine the impact of disclosure on the participants, (3) to identify the number of women who did or did not report sexual assault, (4) to compare the results of reporting or non-reporting to national statistics, (5) to explore survivor's satisfaction with law enforcement and the judicial system, and (6) to determine the number of participants who were aware of sexual assault support services. Additionally, there were six hypotheses: (1) the majority of participants have experienced another person disclosing sexual assault to them, (2) the majority of women who have experienced sexual assault have not reported the assault, (3) the number of unreported sexual assaults will accurately reflect the national norms, (4) the majority of participants who have experienced sexual assault had satisfactory encounters with law enforcement and the judicial system, (5) the majority of participants who have experienced sexual assault are aware of support services, and (6) the majority of participants who have experienced sexual assaults have utilized support services.

The 370 participants were female students at a mid-sized university located in the midwest. Participants were selected from female-only recognized student organizations on the university campus. The participants completed a 35-item quantitative and qualitative survey.

The quantitative questions of the survey were calculated and descriptive statistics of percentages and frequencies were assigned. The data analysis presentation for quantitative questions includes bar graphs, pie charts, and tables. The qualitative questions allowed the participants to express their feelings concerning the disclosure and reporting of the sexual assault.

The results of the study concluded that all the objectives were met. Objective 1 confirmed that women disclose sexual assault to others. Of 370 participants, 339 disclosures of sexual assault were disclosed to family and friends. Objective 2 confirmed that the impact of disclosures were mostly non-victim blaming and had responses such as shocked, sadness, upset, surprise, anger, sympathy, fear, disgust, concern, worry, encouragement to seek counseling, crying, support, mad, and hurt. Objective 3 confirmed that the majority of women do not report the sexual assault to law enforcement personnel. Objective 4 confirmed that of 339 disclosures, 86% (n=290) did not report the assault to law enforcement, 8% (n=24) reported the sexual assault to law enforcement, and 6% (n=21) did not know. Objective 5 confirmed that the majority had a positive first experience with law enforcement. Finally, Objective 6 determined that the majority of participants. Additionally, of those who utilized the sexual assault counseling services, 100% found the services to be beneficial.

### Dedication

I would like to dedicate this research to all survivors and families of sexual assault and domestic violence as well as the staff of sexual assault and domestic violence agencies. Sexual assault and domestic violence are truly hideous crimes against children and women. I deeply hope that violence will end, and everyone can live peacefully together.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the following individuals for their contribution, help, and support to this work:

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## Chapter I

### *Introduction*

Staci is a junior at a large university in the southern United States. She has been dating George for the last 2 years. They live together and both attend school. One night they go out with some friends, and afterwards, they return home. Neither one has been drinking or doing drugs. George decides he wants to have sex with Staci, but Staci says "no." George becomes angry, holds Staci down, and forces her to have sex with him. Is this sexual assault? Yes. Any time a person says "no", it means "no." This crime was not reported to the police because the survivor at the time did not realize it was sexual assault. Furthermore, Staci did not disclose the sexual assault to anyone until 4 years after it happened. There were no known services available to her from the university. This type of sexual assault is known as partner rape.

Kathy is a high school student and goes to a party where there is alcohol and other drugs. She meets with friends and they have a good time while drinking. During the party, Kathy is approached by Tom, a man she has known throughout high school. He has been drinking and smoking marijuana. He wants to have sex with Kathy and she says "no". He holds her down and forces her to have sex, regardless of her "no". Is this sexual assault? Yes. Drinking and taking other drugs do not give anyone the right to have sex with someone who says "no". This crime was not reported because the survivor had been drinking and she feared that the police would not believe her. This type of sexual assault is known as acquaintance rape.

These two scenarios are real-life accounts and illustrate women who are victimized by others. According to the National Victims Center (1992), sexual assault is known as “the most underreported violent crime in America” (Karjane, Fisher, & Cullen, 2002, p. 9). Violence is a wide-spread problem among women, historically and contemporarily.

### *History of Victimization of Women*

Violence has been a problem among women since the beginning of civilization. Women have been considered men’s property and men were allowed to dictate women’s lives mentally, emotionally, and physically. The following illustrate examples of global and societal violence in our society:

- British common law once allowed a man to ‘chastise’ his wife with ‘any reasonable instrument’. (Wadman, nd, p. 1)
- In the United States, throughout the 1800s, state laws and cultural practices continued to support a man’s right to discipline his wife. In fact, it was not until 1895 that a woman could divorce her husband on grounds of abuse. (Wadman, nd, p. 1)
- In the 1800s and early 1900s, there were few limits placed on men in disciplining their wives. The most noted discipline practiced prior to this date was the “rule of thumb”. During the use of “rule of thumb”, a man commonly used sticks that were the same size or smaller than the man’s thumb when he needed to hit his wife. (Yared, nd, 2011)
- During the 1970s the women’s movement started and the first shelters were established. Since that time, 1700 shelters have been opened. However, there are

still three times more shelters for animals than women and children (Yared, nd, p. 2011)

- In 1994, the Violence Against Women Act was adopted. This act prompted increased research on domestic abuse and generated the legal and financial support for law enforcement and social services to protect battered women. This Act allocated \$1.8 billion to aid organizations in developing programs to prevent violence against women (Yared, nd, ¶3)

Prior to the 1970s, male dominance and aggression were the norms. Women were considered “property” and men had the right to do what they wanted with their “property.” Men (husbands, fathers, brothers or male family members) had the right to physically punish women for any alleged infraction. An example of this nineteenth century belief was:

Under the law, a woman was the sexual property of her husband; that is, she had a duty to have intercourse with him. Although marital rape was gradually recognized as a form of cruelty, it was not a crime. A Virginia court was sympathetic to Robert Latham when Fannie Latham ‘denied him access to her bed’; he won both a divorce and custody of their children. Moreover, a woman had few means by which she could support herself outside of marriage, so she had reason to remain in her husband’s favor. (D’Emilio & Freedman, 1988, p. 79)

An additional belief of nineteenth century males dealt with upholding the male image by having a legacy and to leave the legacy to his children, preferably male. Females had no rights and protection under the law. The following statement illustrates a belief that some men enforced:

With the invention of private property, men sought to ensure that they could pass their property on to their own children, giving them the motivation to control women in monogamous (at least for the women) marriages so men could be sure that their children were their children. Property and family laws were therefore designed by men to keep women under their control. This is why married women

could not own property, for example, and had no management rights over household property. (Sapiro, 2003, p. 66)

In support of the above statement, such a belief in male dominance was widespread and supported by the public and the law. Sapiro (2003) identified the two main reasons for the tolerance of violence as follows:

(1) Traditional sexual and gender ideology limited women's autonomy, self-definition, and the right to control their own bodies and sexual decisions; and (2) men had proprietary rights over their wives and, indeed, over other females, leaving women and girls legally defenseless against attack, especially within the family. (p. 303)

The above statements support theories of male dominance and male aggression. Male dominance is defined as "the exclusion of women from political and economic decision making" (Sapiro, 2003, p. 70). Male aggression is defined as "the expectation that males should be tough, brave, and aggressive; the presence of men's houses or specific places where men may congregate; frequent quarrelling, fighting, or wife beating; the institutionalization of regular occurrence of rape; and raiding other groups for wives." (Sapiro, 2003, p. 70). Male dominance and aggression towards women has occurred over many centuries.

"Violence against women first came to be viewed as a serious social problem in the early 1970s, in part because of the reemergence of the Women's Movement." (Tjaden, 1998, p. 1). Accordingly, sexual assault is undoubtedly one of the most cruel and violating crimes that can be committed against a person, whether woman or man. Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault (2003) described sexual assault as "a crime of violence, power, and control, occurring when one person has sex with another person without that person's freely-given consent. Sexual assault can happen to anyone regardless of gender, age, race, religion, economic status, or social status." (§ 2).

### *Violence and Health Risks*

Globally, it is estimated that one of three women has experienced violence at some point in her life. In addition, this violence may potentially “reduce the healthy years of life for reproductive age women by 5%” (Nayak, Byrne, Martin, & Abraham, 2003, p. 1). The reduction of the 5% is related to risk factors that survivors encounter when exposed to sexual and domestic violence. The risk factors for nonfatal and fatal outcomes relating to physical and mental health are included in Table 1.

In the United States, the number of women who have been murdered by spouses exceeds the number of U.S. soldiers killed during the Vietnam War. An average of 1,400 women are murdered each year and approximately 1,800 people (3/4 women) were murdered by intimate partners. Violence is the leading cause of injury for women between the ages of 15 to 44, and it is estimated that two to four million women suffer violence each year. In addition, 6% of pregnant women are battered by their partners every year, which increases the number of miscarriages, stillbirths, preterm births, and low-birth weight babies. Finally, women who are victims of violence are more likely to commit suicide than other people. (Yarden, nd)



Table 1  
Health Consequences of Gender-Based Violence

Nonfatal Outcomes	
<i>Physical Health</i>	<i>Mental Health</i>
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Injury	Depression
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	Anxiety
Unwanted Pregnancy	Sexual Dysfunction
Miscarriage	Eating Disorders
Chronic Pelvic Pain	Multiple Personality Disorder
Headaches	Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
Gynecological Problems	
Alcohol/Drug Abuse	
Asthma	
Irritable Bowel Syndrome	
Injurious Health Behaviors	
(smoking, unprotected sex)	
Partial or Permanent Disability	
<i>Fatal Outcomes</i>	
Suicide	
Homicide	

(Heise, Pitanguy, & Germain, 1994, p. 18)

### *Violence and Misconceptions*

Physical and emotional aspects accompany sexual assault and its aftermath.

Sexual assault may elicit questions such as, what could have done differently or feelings of being “unclean”. There are many psychologically damaging myths related to sexual assault. Sapiro (2003) identified the following misperceptions:

- A woman who goes to a man’s apartment/house on a date implies that she is willing to have sex;
- Any healthy woman can successfully resist a perpetrator if she wants to;
- Women who dress provocatively in short skirts or tight braless tops are asking for trouble;
- In most sexual assaults, the survivor is promiscuous or has a bad reputation;
- If a woman engages in kissing and she lets things get out of hand, it is her own fault if she is forced to have sex;
- Women who get sexually assaulted while hitchhiking get what they deserve;
- A woman who is aloof and thinks that she is too good to talk to a man on the street deserves to be taught a lesson;
- Women who are sexually assaulted have an unconscious wish to be assaulted and may unconsciously create a situation in which they are likely to be attacked;
- If a woman gets intoxicated at a party and has sex with a man she has just met, she should be considered fair game to other men at the party who want to have sex with her, too, whether she wants to or not; and
- Many women who report sexual assaults are lying because they are angry and want to retaliate against the accused.

Additional misperceptions may include "I asked for it", "she asked for it", "she's a slut", and "he's a fag". Would a person want to report the sexual assault if family and/or friends subscribed to such myths and misperceptions? Women and men tend to report sexual assault only when extreme physical injury has occurred and medical assistance is warranted. On average, more women than men report assault. A male may not report the sexual assault due to embarrassment, perceptions of masculinity, and the belief that others will view him as a homosexual (Pino & Meier, 1999).

#### *Sexual Assault, Reporting, and Rape Kits*

Reporting sexual assault to law enforcement officials can potentially add another layer to the existing cruelty of the situation. Law enforcement officials are now better trained than in previous years, but officials must continually be educated. Education on sexual assault for law enforcement personnel and officers is not only limited to the United States, but it is incorporated in education in other countries, such as Great Britain and Australia.

In the 1970s and 1980s in Sussex (Britain), law enforcement officials often did not believe survivors and were known to treat survivors as perpetrators. Consequently, fewer women reported sexual assaults and the public rebelled against law enforcement. The Sussex police force responded by reviewing training and education programs in the United States which focused on sexual crimes and the investigation and support for the victim. Besides educating law enforcement and law officials, the public needs increased education. Furthermore, law enforcement and law officials need to be continually educated on the psychological and emotional impacts on sexual assault survivors and the need for sensitivity.

Reporting of the sexual assault can be a very traumatic time for the survivor. During that time, she will have to describe the incident multiple times, endure a medical examination, submit to photographs of bruising and lacerations, and gathering of evidence for the rape kit (sampling of secretions for DNA testing). Sapiro (2003) described the treatment of the victims by the justice system as:

Insensitive treatment of female victims at the hands of the criminal-justice system has often been labeled the 'double victimization' of women: They are victimized first by the criminal and then by the criminal-justice system. One tragic effect of these legal and public views is that many victimized women actually feel guilty for what was done to them." (p. 408)

During the trial, the survivor will again provide details about the assault and may experience feelings of blame. In addition, during the trial, the medical examination evidence is presented to the court (judge, jury, attorneys). The photographs and rape kits are admitted as evidence, only if the rape kits have been tested. In a news release by Doyo (2004) it was determined that contents of the rape kits are often never tested due to funding and are left sitting on a shelf. The contents include "several collection tubes with caps in different colors, cotton swabs for collecting samples from different parts of the body, small envelopes for the collection tubes, instructions on how to gather samples, preserve, pack, seal and transport" (Doyo, 2004, ¶ 13). In an interview, Howard Safir, former Police Commissioner of New York, determined that the city of New York had 16,000 untested rape kits while he was in office. He estimated that there are 300,000-500,000 untested kits across the United States. Also, Safir stated that the cost of testing the rape kits averages \$500-1000 and if the kits are not being tested, then law enforcement and the court system are saying that a woman is not worth the money to test the rape kit. (The Oprah Winfrey Show, 2002)

In support of the statements from Howard Safir, ABC's 20/20 investigated this problem and paid half of the expenses to have 50 rape kits tested. During this investigation, the police were able to solve five major crime cases and exonerated a wrongfully imprisoned man. (The Oprah Winfrey Show, 2002) To address this issue of untested rape kits, a new legislative bill entitled "Rape Kits and DNA Evidence Backlog Elimination Act of 2003" was introduced to Congress on November 15, 2003. A summary of the bill states:

Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act of 2003 - Rape Kits and DNA Evidence Backlog Elimination Act of 2003 - Amends: (1) the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Act; (2) the DNA Identification Act of 1994 (Identification Act) to expand the scope of DNA samples to be included in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS); and (3) the Violence Against Women Act to authorize grants to increase the availability of legal assistance to victims of dating violence.

DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2003 - Amends the Identification Act to require that CODIS include only information on DNA identification records and analyses that are prepared by laboratories that: (1) have been accredited by a nationally recognized nonprofit professional association of forensic scientists within two years; and (2) undergo external audits at least every two years that demonstrate compliance with specified standards.

Authorizes the Attorney General to make grants for: (1) DNA training and education; (2) sexual assault forensic examination programs; (3) research and development; (4) using DNA technology to identify missing persons; and (5) tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions.

Expands and reauthorizes the Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program.

(Bill Summary & Status for the 108th Congress, Retrieved March 2004)

The Rape Kits and DNA Evidence Backlog Elimination Act of 2003 will help aid survivors in their quest for justice and aid the court system in determining if the right perpetrator was apprehended. In other words, if a perpetrator is convicted, the DNA rape kit testing will either support identification of the perpetrator or free an innocent person. The aforementioned information perpetuates the shame and embarrassment the survivor

feel. After submitting to the rape kit test, it may remain on a shelf indefinitely, and may not be used in prosecuting the perpetrator.

Although there are prevention and education programs focused on survivors of sexual assault, many women feel ashamed and embarrassed and, therefore, may not report what has happened. Often the sexual assault is only reported if there was physical injury that required medical treatment. The survivor of the sexual assault may experience low self-esteem, unhealthy body image, psychological problems, and change in sexual activities. (Wonderlick, Crosby, Mitchell, Roberts, Haseltine, Demuth, & Thompson, 2000, ¶ 5)

#### *Statement of the Problem*

Sexual assault is often unreported. There are a variety of reasons such as the survivor minimizing the assault, fear of retaliation from the perpetrator, fear that she will not be believed, and/or the belief that the assault was her fault.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2003) indicates that one out of every four college women (25%) has experienced sexual assault by the time they graduate. By age 30, 58% of women will have experienced sexual assault. Furthermore, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that a high percentage of women in the United States have been or are currently survivors of abuse, which includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse. In addition, the Fisher, Cullen, and Turner (2000) study indicated that 27.7 sexual assaults occur per 1,000 female college students and fewer than 5% of the 27.7 sexual assaults are reported.

While the numbers are high, the magnitude and scope of assault may be higher due to lack of reporting and support from law enforcement. Therefore, additional

information and studies need to be completed on an annual basis to determine the magnitude and scope of reporting sexual assault.

### *The Current Study*

The purpose of this study was to examine disclosure, formal reporting, and support services related to sexual assault. The sample included female university students at a mid-sized midwestern university. The decision to include only females was due in part to a large number of survivors being female. First, the study explored the disclosure or non-disclosure of sexual assault by friends or family members of the participant. Second, the study identified how many participants have experienced sexual assault. Third, the study explored whether survivors reported the sexual assault incident. Fourth, the study explored the participant's experience(s) with law enforcement and support services in relation to the sexual assault.

### *Objectives*

There were six main objectives of the study:

1. To determine the number of female participants who were aware of women who had experienced sexual assault.
2. To determine the impact of disclosure on the participants.
3. To identify the number of women who did or did not report sexual assault
4. To compare the results of reporting or non-reporting to national statistics.
5. To explore survivor's satisfaction with law enforcement and the judicial system.
6. To determine the number of participants who were aware of sexual assault support services.



### *Hypotheses*

This study had six hypotheses:

1. The majority of participants have experienced another person disclosing sexual assault to them.
2. The majority of women who have experienced sexual assault have not reported the assault.
3. The number of unreported sexual assaults will accurately reflect the national norms.
4. The majority of participants who have experienced sexual assault had satisfactory encounters with law enforcement and the judicial system.
5. The majority of participants who have experienced sexual assault are aware of support services.
6. The majority of participants who have experienced sexual assaults have utilized support services.

### *Definition of Terms*

1. Sexual Assault - forcible sexual relations such as "sexual violence, rape, violation, date rape, acquaintance rape, marital rape, statutory rape, gang rape, unwanted sexual touching, molestation, coerced sex, relationship violence, forcible sodomy, sexual abuse, incest, child sexual assault, and anything else that conveys non-mutual contact of a sexual nature."  
(Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault, 2003, ¶ 6).
2. Survivor – the person (victim) who has survived the assault. The term survivor gives the victim a feeling of reclaiming her autonomy. The term

survivor also promotes healing to the person assaulted as well as family, friends and community (Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault, 2003, ¶ 4). In addition, it must be noted that “women are about five times more likely than men to be victims of intimate partner violence”. (Sapiro, 2003, p. 302). Approximately 91% of the sexual assault survivors are female (Sapiro, 2003, p. 402)

3. Perpetrator - family member, spouse, ex-spouse, friend, boyfriend, ex-boyfriend, neighbor, co-worker, acquaintance or stranger who has committed the sexual assault (Lievore, 2002, p. 5). In addition, “these crimes, unlike others, are perpetrated primarily by men.” (Sapiro, 2003, p. 303) Approximately 99% of the perpetrators are male. (Sapiro, 2003, p. 402)

### *A World Without Violence Against Women*

Violence against women is a national and international problem, and therefore, people must come together to resolve this issue. Is it possible for cultures to exist without violence? According to Heise, et al. (1994):

Violence is not inevitable. Cross-cultural research shows that, although violence against women is an integral part of virtually all cultures, there are societies in which gender-based abuse does not exist. Such societies stand as proof that social relations can be organized in a way that minimizes or eliminates violence against women. (p. 1)

The Heise, et al. report determined that in the “ethnographic review of 90 peasant and small-scale societies”, 16 of the societies can be described as “essentially free [of] or untroubled by family violence” (p. 16). In addition, some societies are free of sexual

assault. This offers evidence that people and societies can live in a world without violence against women.

### *Summary*

Many factors can influence whether a survivor reports a sexual assault incident.

In support, Lievore (2002) stated the following:

The majority of women are sexually assaulted by men they know and often trust. The closeness of survivor-offender relationships, together with the private context of attacks, may therefore set up personal barriers to reporting. Victims' perceptions of the justice system may comprise an additional barrier (pp. 5-6).

Accordingly, many sexual assaults will continue to go unreported unless education and prevention programs are increased for the public, schools, law enforcement officials, and businesses.

Colleges and universities in the United States are gradually reviewing their policies on sexual assault. All universities are to comply with federal mandates and some universities are taking the crime of sexual assault more seriously by implementing programs for female and male students. These programs include, but are not limited to, on-campus sexual assault counseling services and sexual assault programs (e.g., education, awareness, and prevention).

## Chapter II

### *Review of Literature*

Research and studies on sexual assault are wide and varied. For purposes of this study, the literature relating to types and causes of sexual assault, statistics, assaults on campus, reporting characteristics, sexual assault myths, and support services will be reviewed.

#### *Types and Causes of Sexual Assaults*

The Cowan (2000) study discussed beliefs and circumstances of four types of sexual assault. The four types of sexual assault that the study focused on was stranger, acquaintance, date, and partner rape and the “three main causes of rape – victim, precipitation, male pathology and male hostility – varied as a function of the type of rape”. (§ 1) There are three additional circumstances of sexual assault: male dominance, male sexuality, and society/socialization.

Cowan study discussed the four types of sexual assaults and defined them as follows:

- Stranger rape is the most feared type of sexual assault. The perpetrator does not know the survivor and, accordingly, there is no relationship between the perpetrator and the survivor.
- Acquaintance rape is the most common type of sexual assault and until recently it was not defined as a “real rape or as a crime”. (§ 2) The perpetrator in this type of sexual assault is an acquaintance of the survivor and these accounts for 80-90 % of the sexual assaults. Most survivors of this type of sexual assault do not see themselves as a victim.

- Date rape is often called the “hidden rape” because it is “less likely to be taken seriously or reported and, when reported, less likely to be prosecuted or the accused rapist sentenced to prison”. (§ 2) The perpetrator is the survivor’s date.
- Partner rape is also known as the “hidden rape” and it is viewed in the same terms as date rape. Partner rape is very rarely reported and less likely to be prosecuted. The perpetrator has a long-term relationship with the victim, either through extended dating, cohabitation, or marriage. Accordingly, a close relationship exists.

All four types of rape were defined in the Cowan study and scenarios were given to aid the sample in understanding the types of rape.

The purpose of the Cowan study was to determine the causes of sexual assault, how causes were related to the type of sexual assault, and gender views. The six targeted causes of sexual assault (individual and societal) for the study were female precipitation, male pathology, male hostility, male dominance, male sexuality, and society/socialization. The individual causes were:

- female precipitation blames the victim and is a rape myth. This myth is the most common “because it directly holds the victim responsible for the rape.” (§ 12). The survivor is to blame because she was drinking, she was dressed provocatively, or she did not behave the right way.
- male hostility (blame the perpetrator) is the anger men feel towards women;
- male pathology is a rape myth that the perpetrator has a mental illness. This is particularly dangerous type of cause because this “marginalizes rape because, in this view rapists are a distinguishably mentally ill, and easily identified, segment

of the population.” In addition “male pathology, in particular is consistent with the myth that a “real” rape is caused by a crazed stranger. In contrast to survivor precipitation and male sexuality as causes of rape, a stranger rape should be attributed more too male pathology than an acquaintance, date, or partner rape.” (¶ 14); and

- male sexuality is a rape myth. Although it places the blame on the perpetrator, it is because of the survivor that the sexual assault occurs. The victims are to blame because men cannot control their sexual urges and make “women responsible for preventing rape. If he cannot control his sexual urges, then it is her responsibility not to provoke him” (¶ 13).

Societal causes were:

- male dominance is the belief that sexual assault is related to gender inequality or society’s belief that women are men’s property. In addition, it is the “belief that views rape as the outcome of a patriarchal system in which men have more power than women.” (¶ 11); and
- society/socialization is the “belief that rape is caused by social processes, such as media, that foster male aggression against women.” (¶ 11).

Cowan’s (2000) study included 397 college students. In the study, the students consisted of 200 women (53.2%) and 168 men (44.7%) and the average age was 25.89. The participants were randomly provided with one of four types of scenarios involving (stranger, acquaintance, date, partner sexual assault), as well as questionnaires. The questionnaires included the Perceived Causes of Rape Scale, Female Precipitation Scale,

Male Dominance Scale, Male Hostility Scale, Male Pathology Scale, Male Sexuality Scale, and Society and Socialization Scale.

The following results were noted:

- The type of rape was significant for the Female Precipitation Scale, Male Hostility Scale, and Male Pathology Scales;
- The belief regarding female precipitation was rated higher for date and partner sexual assault;
- The beliefs regarding male hostility and male pathology rated stranger, acquaintance, and date sexual assault higher; and
- The belief targeting male dominance was rated higher for acquaintance and date rape.

Three main questions that all participants answered were:

- Rape. A common theme in the scenarios and questionnaires involved the word "rape". "Rape" was not used in the scenarios, but when the participants were asked on the questionnaires if the behavior was "rape", 269 participants said "yes" and two said "no";
- Sexual assault education. Of the participants 104 had sexual assault education and 258 did not have any type of rape education. Those who had sexual assault education rated male pathology lower than those who did not have rape education. In addition, those who had rape education were more likely to contribute sexual assault to society than those who did not have rape education; and
- Disclosure. Did the participants know someone who had been sexually assaulted? Of those participants, 140 (38.7%) said they knew of others who had been



sexually assaulted and 222 (61.3%) said they were not aware of anyone who had been sexually assaulted.

The Cowan (2000) study discussed the different types of rape and related causes for each type. Also, the Cowan study supported other studies that are related to sexual assault myths, disclosure, and rape education. It was noted that the number of participants knew someone who had been sexually assaulted was considerably lower than in the other studies discussed in further detail later in the Review of Literature.

### *Sexual Assault Statistics*

Reports of sexual assault are increasing. Table 2 identifies the year, Illinois statistics, and federal statistics of reported sexual assaults.

Table 2

#### Number of Reported Sexual Assault at State and Federal Levels

Year	Reported Sexual Assaults	
	Illinois	Federal
1998	6,156	93,144
1999	6,286	89,107
2000	5,688	90,178
2001	5,619	90,491
2002	6,037	95,136

In addition to the aforementioned statistics, it is estimated that only three in ten rapes are reported and 70-80% of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the survivor (Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2003).

Other relative points are noted by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2003):

- In 1995, approximately 876,100 forcible rapes and attempted rapes were perpetrated against women in the U.S.
- 54% of women raped in 1992 were younger than 18 years of age; 22% were under 12 years old and 32% were 12 to 17 years old when they were first raped.
- 1 in 6 women has experienced an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.
- Women are 10 times more likely than men to be victims of rape or sexual assault.
- In sexual assaults of female survivors (12 years+) the perpetrator had the following relationship with the survivor: 53% were friends or acquaintances, 26% of offenders were intimates (current or ex-spouse, partner, boyfriend/girlfriend), 18% were strangers, and 3% were other relatives.
- An estimated two-thirds of all rapes are not reported to law enforcement. Many factors contribute to underreporting, such as embarrassment, fear of retaliation or further injury, and fear of police and court procedures that too often scrutinize and judge the survivor's behavior, history or credibility.
- Several socio-cultural influences contribute to the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault. These include increased acceptance of interpersonal violence, adversarial stereotypes of male and female relationships, and prevalent myths about rape and sex role stereotyping.
- A survey found that, in one-third of all rapes and physical assaults perpetrated against women, the survivor sustained an injury. In approximately 38% of all such

injury victimizations, the victim received some type of medical care (e.g., paramedic care, emergency room treatment, physical therapy).

Additional national statistics were provided by Koss and Harvey (1991). The study included a sample of 7,000 Ohio college students and found the following:

- 15% of women respondents had an experience that met the Ohio legal definition of sexual assault;
- 12% had experienced attempted sexual assault;
- 54% of women had been sexually victimized to some degree;
- 16% of sexual assaults involved a perpetrator who was a stranger;
- 57% of sexual assaults involved a date;
- 86% of sexual assaults occurred off campus;
- 5% of sexual assaults were reported to police; and
- 5% of sexual assault survivors visited a rape crisis center.

The National Crime Survey (1991) found that 207,610 sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults occurred in 1991 and provided the following statistics:

- 80% of all survivors knew the perpetrator;
- 41% occurred in the survivor's home;
- 19% took place at or near a friend's home;
- 18% occurred at night on the street;
- 65% of sexual assaults occurred at night between midnight and 6:00 AM;
- 16% of sexual assaults were reported;
- 25% of sexual assaults that were reported were reported after 24 hours.

Berkowitz (1992) completed a literature review focusing on college men as

perpetrators in acquaintance sexual assault. During his review Berkowitz analyzed findings from other studies and reported:

- 25-60% of college men have engaged in some form of sexual coercive behavior;
- 39% of men denied involvement of sexually coercive behavior;
- 28% of men admitted to having used a coercive method at least once;
- 15% admitted they had forced a woman to have intercourse at least once;
- 25% of men had been involved in at least some form of sexual assault since the age of 14;
- 57% of men admitted to perpetrating sexual assault;
- 51% reported an incident in college;
- men generally ignored women who protested or said no.

Berkowitz further stated that men have perpetrator characteristics, but many men do not act out these characteristics. In addition:

Men grow up in an environment that supports the objectification of women and encourages them to behave in ways that are sometimes violent and coercive. Many college men admit, for example, that they would be willing to commit sexual assault under certain conditions. These actions logically follow from men's socialization into traditional gender roles. Such gender socialization experiences, however, are not sufficient to explain the occurrence of sexual assault because many men do not act on these cultural messages. (p. 6)

The reported statistics reveal the staggering magnitude of the problem of sexual assault in the United States. Accordingly, additional research and tracking needs to be completed. In addition, more prevention, education and awareness need to be addressed on the college and university campuses, public/private school system, and in business sectors.

*Campus Occurrences of Sexual Assault*

Universities and colleges have been plagued with sexual assault problems. Each year, the news media report assaults on campuses across the United States. It appears that the majority of media coverage happens when the person involved as either the survivor or perpetrator is someone known on campus. In addition, there is greater publicity when male college athletes are the alleged perpetrator. The following paragraphs illustrate sexual assault allegations on campuses.

ESPN.com (2003) reported that the University of Colorado Athletics Department and football team is being investigated for sexual assault allegations. A female football kicker came forward with a statement saying "she was 'healing' from 'horrors endured' while on the Colorado football team" (ESPN.com, ¶ 4) and that she did not come forward earlier before because she was "too frightened". However, she did not elaborate on details. This comes as a follow-up to the investigation in which members of the football team are being investigated for sexual assault against at least four additional women who have reported other incidences.

In related circumstances, Cindy Hanford (1999) focused on football players attending Virginia Tech in 1994 and a fraternity at the University of Florida–Gainesville in 1999. In 1994, a Virginia Tech student reported that she was sexually assaulted by two Virginia Tech football players. The university found one player not guilty and the other guilty. The consequence for the guilty football player was two semesters of academic suspension. However, the university reversed their ruling for the guilty football player in time for football season to begin, making him eligible to play.

Hanford (1999) also reported that members of a fraternity at the University of Florida - Gainesville sexually assaulted a woman at a fraternity party. The assault was videotaped. However, the woman was an exotic dancer and the videotape that was confiscated had been edited by members of the fraternity. The woman was arrested for "falsifying a police report" and cited for "performing as an exotic dancer without a permit" (Hanford, 1999, p. 2). Important factors related to the assault were: the victim was taken to the hospital with a neck brace; on the edited video tape, the word "rape" was chanted several times; the perpetrator was choking the survivor and asking if she wanted to breath; the video tape was released to anyone who wanted a free copy by the Florida State's Attorney Office and was for sale on the internet and was titled "Live Frat Rape Tape."

In support of the increasing media coverage of sexual assault on campus, Toban (2001), reviewed and reported a U.S. Justice Department research report entitled "The Sexual Victimization of College Women" which was conducted by Fisher, Cullen, and Turner (2000). The federally funded study indicated that one fourth to one third of women will be victimized before they graduate from college. The study included a sample of 4,446 women from universities across the United States during the 1996-1997 academic school years. The study reported that an average of 350 sexual assaults occurred during the school year at universities with an enrollment of 10,000 female students (Toban, 2001). In addition, 60% of the completed sexual assaults occurred in the survivor's residence and 31% occurred at other campus sites (i.e., slightly over 10% of completed sexual assaults happened at fraternities) (Toban, 2001).

The participants were interviewed and asked a series of questions regarding sexual victimization. The questions were specific and detailed relating to sexual assault. The results of the study indicated that 27.7 sexual assaults occurred per 1,000 female students. Furthermore, it was noted that "completed rape" (1.7%) incidences were higher than "attempted rape" (1.1%) and "threat of rape" (.3%). It was determined from the study that fewer than 5% of the participants who had been sexually assaulted reported the incident to law enforcement. Also, it was determined that two thirds of the participants who had been sexually assaulted disclosed the assault to another person. In accordance, many women did not report their assault to law enforcement.

Hanford (2000) stated:

Women are well aware of the methods used to keep them silent about rape: the justice system's reluctance to prosecute rapists, even when evidence is overwhelming; the disbelief that survivors often face; and the insensitive and humiliating treatment that women experience when they come forward. (§ 1)

This statement reinforces the feelings women have regarding their assault. In addition, why would a woman report the assault if she will be considered as the person responsible for the incident, knowing that the perpetrator will not suffer any consequences?

University campuses are gradually taking a stand against the mistreatment of survivors and sexual assaults.

#### *University Campus Responses to Sexual Assault*

Families send their adult children to colleges and universities with low crime rates for the sake of their children's safety. However, if crimes are not being reported properly, then protection of the students is flawed and hindered. Reporting may not promote a favorable image for college and university crime rate statistics, but women

should have the choice to report the assault without fear of being penalized for coming forward. Accordingly, laws have been enacted to help protect students.

On April 5, 1986, a university freshman, Jeanne Ann Clery, was sexually assaulted and killed while asleep in her dorm room at Lehigh University. Jeanne's parents joined other campus crime survivors, lobbying efforts with Congress to enact a law requiring universities to provide criminal statistics to the public. This law was enacted in 1990 and was known as Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act. (Security on Campus, 2003b, ¶ 4) This act "according to a New York Times article, 'requires all colleges and universities receiving Federal funds to publish and make readily available their security and crime-reporting policies and to make public the number of on-campus killings, assaults, robberies, burglaries and other crimes.'" (Davis, 1995, ¶ 26) As an amendment to the Act, in 1992, Congress created the "Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights" and formally renamed the law as the Clery Act (Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act) in memory of Jeanne Clery. (Security on Campus, Inc., 2001, ¶ 1) The act was further amended in 1998 to "include additional reporting obligations, extensive campus security-related provisions, and the requirement to keep a daily public crime log". (Fisher, Cullen, & Turner, 2000, p. 1)

Furthermore, an additional law passed on October 28, 2000 entitled Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act, amended three separate laws: the Clery Act, the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The Campus Sexual Prevention Act "provides for the tracking of convicted, registered sex offenders enrolled as students at



institutions of higher education, or working or volunteering on campus.” (Security on Campus, Inc., 2003a, ¶ 1).

In addition to the aforementioned legislative acts, the United States Congress enacted The Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998 (Public Law 105-244) which was designed to address nine main issues pertaining to sexual assault on university and college campuses. The nine main issues include prevention efforts, victim support services, reporting policies, protocols, practices, barriers, facilitators, adjudication procedures, and sanctions for sexual assault. Karjane, Fisher, and Cullen (2002) and the University of Cincinnati and Police Executive Research Forum completed a study to determine how campuses address these nine issues. The sample consisted of 2,438 campuses in the United States and Puerto Rico. These campuses included all types of schools that are eligible for federal funding (under Title IV) and represented a sample of 4-year public schools, 4-year private nonprofit schools, 2- to 4-year private for-profit schools, 2-year public schools, 2-year private nonprofit schools, less than 2- year public and private nonprofit schools, less than 2-year private for profit schools, Native American tribal schools, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Karjane, Fisher, and Cullen (2002) drew conclusions related to deficiencies in the campus’ handling of sexual assault. Deficiencies included:

- No standard institutional or state definitions of “sexual assault” and “rape”;
- Only 36.5% of schools reported crime statistics in accordance with the Clery Act in their Annual Security Reports;
- Less than half of all campuses provide new students with sexual assault awareness education and acquaintance rape prevention sexual assault programs;

- Only 37.6% of campuses require sexual assault sensitivity training for campus law enforcement/security officers;
- Only 40 schools provide students with sexual assault response training (e.g., resident hall assistants, student security officers); and
- The most common penalties implemented by 4-year (residential) institutions include expulsion, suspension, and administrative actions such as no-contact orders. Only a minority of campuses impose sanctions on fraternities and athletic teams. (p. xiii)

Recommendations from the Karjane, Fisher, and Cullen (2002) study included:

- Developing campus guidelines for meeting the Clery Act reporting mandates;
- Developing a model Sexual Assault Policy Manual;
- Developing a model Sexual Assault Education Pamphlet for students;
- Developing a set of model services for survivors of campus sexual assault;
- Designing policies and protocols that prioritize survivor's needs;
- Investigating barriers and facilitators to a survivor's ability to identify rape as a crime;
- Investigating ethnic and other cultural factors related to campus sexual assault; and
- Evaluating policies perceived to be barriers or facilitators to reporting.

(p. xiv)

Supporting the statistics given by the university included in the study, Fisher, Cullen, and Turner (2000) stated:

College women are victimized both on and off campus. For nearly all types of sexual victimization, however, off campus victimization is more common. This

conclusion must be qualified because off campus sexual victimization may take place in bars and nightclubs or in student residences close to campus. Thus, even if a student is victimized off campus, she may be engaged in an activity that is connected to her life as a student at the college she attends. (p. 19)

Although this statement supports the statistics provided by the university in the Fisher, Cullen, and Turner study, it must also be remembered that <5% of all assaults are generally reported and some reported assaults are handled by the campus judicial board without ever being reported to law enforcement.

Harvard University serves as an example of being active in prevention, education, and awareness related to sexual assault on campus. In 2002, there were 58 sexual assaults reported in the Harvard University Health Services survey, an increase from previous years. (Crimson Staff, 2003a, ¶ 1) In response to the increasing incidents of sexual assault and the protesting of the policy that required "independent corroborating evidence" be given to the Administration Board, Harvard University formed the Committee to Address Sexual Assault at Harvard (commonly known as the Leaning Committee, after the Director, Jennifer Leaning) in 2002. Comprised of students, faculty, and administrators, the Leaning Committee is "charged with reviewing 'all institutional support services for victims of sexual violence and all preventive, educational, and outreach programs,' the committee has a chance to make a strong impact on Harvard's policies." (Crimson Staff, 2003a, ¶ 4)

The Harvard University Committee to Address Sexual Assault has made the following recommendations to the University. They include:

- Assign an independent investigator to investigate sexual assaults.
- Administration board members must have specific education regarding process and procedure.

- Create an Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and have at least two full-time employees and one part-time employee. The part-time employee could be responsible for working with male groups.
- Annual training for all employees that may come into contact someone who has experienced sexual assault.

(Seltzer, 2003)

Harvard's Administration Board followed through with all of the recommendations except one. (Krug, 2003) The independent investigator portion and change of "independent corroborating evidence" were not accepted. However, the Administration Board did modify the evidence language to state "supporting information" pertaining to the sexual assault. However, students are still not satisfied with this provision. A protest was held because students felt that the Administration Board betrayed the students. One student was quoted as saying "Rape happens at Harvard and what does Harvard do? Harvard buries its head in the sand!" (Crimson Staff, 2003b ¶ 2) Students and faculty at Harvard are highly active in response to issues of violence towards women. They are active in violence free organizations and activities such as Coalition Against Sexual Assault, rallies, Take Back the Night, Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment advocates, educational performance of *Sex Singles* and various other activities. (Crimson Staff, 2003a)

Harvard's Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response has been very active in the last year by organizing student forums to assess needs and wants of students. The Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response has also been working with the male population on education programs.

As noted, several acts, news articles, and rallies have aided college students in bringing awareness of sexual assault to university and college campuses. However, more needs to be done to insure that all people are protected and are aware of their rights. Some university and college campuses are becoming more active and, accordingly, they are becoming model schools for education, awareness, and prevention of sexual assault.

#### *University Response and The Current Study*

For this study, the university campus is mid-sized and located in the Midwest. The campus population for 2003 was approximately 11,500 (6700 are female and 4800 are male). The university campus publishes an annual security report. This report informs students about campus police and regulations (hours, parking, etc.), reporting of crime, prevention, awareness, education, and previous year's statistics. In addition, the report has a section entitled "Sexual Assault on Campus" and lists the Sexual Assault Policy and information regarding medical services, advocacy services, counseling services, criminal charges, disciplinary system, hearing process, and sanctions. According to the Annual Report for 2002, there were no "forcible sex offenses" on campus during the academic years of 2000, 2001, and 2002. However, there were five "non-forcible sex offenses" reported in 2000, one reported in 2001, and five reported in 2002 (three criminal assaults and two sexual abuses). The approximate enrollment at the university was 10,600 students in 2000; 10,500 students in 2001; and 11,150 students in 2002. According to the statistics, this university appears to be a safe campus.

#### *Reporting of Sexual Assault*

Reporting and non-reporting of sexual assault was reviewed for this study, specifically gender differences in reporting, disclosure of sexual assault to others,

reporting of sexual assault to law enforcement, and blind reporting of the crime and the perpetrator, but not reporting who the survivor was in the attack.

Pino and Meier (1999) examined the differences between sexes when reporting/disclosing sexual assault. This study compared females and males and their reasons for reporting or not reporting sexual assault. Women reported sexual assault when they viewed themselves as a survivor. However, women had a tendency not to report sexual assault when the perpetrator was a relative or acquaintance. Women were also more likely to report sexual assault when social factors were present such as: use of weapon, theft, and survivor/perpetrator background (economic, education, and social statuses). More specifically, it was noted "that the survivor's income...and education... were related to rape reporting, but the effects are small and their meaning mixed (Pino & Meier, 1999, p. 4). In addition, men did not report sexual assault unless reporting was unavoidable due to the need for medical attention. Men believed that sexual assault was humiliating and destroyed their masculinity.

The data for the Pino and Meier (1999) study was taken from the 1979-1987 National Sample Sexual Assault Subsets, using the National Crime and Victimization Survey. The study included 897 survivors of sexual assault (81 male and 816 female). The survivors were generally Caucasian, unmarried, and young. The profiles of the survivors were the following: 93% of the sexual assaults occurred in urban areas; 66% of the perpetrators were Caucasian; 92% of the perpetrators were 18 and older; 80% of the survivors suffered injuries; 50% of the survivors needed medical treatment. Male survivors were generally sexually assaulted during the day, had multiple perpetrators, assaults involved the use of weapons, perpetrators were strangers, and the sexual assault

occurred in a public place. In addition, male survivors were usually not sexually assaulted in their homes, claimed that the sexual assault was completed, and were less likely to defend or protect themselves during the sexual assault.

The participants of the Pino and Meier (1999) study were asked to partake in the National Crime and Victimization Survey because of their sexual assault. The results of the study indicated that females were 1 to 1 ½ times more likely to report sexual assault than males. In addition, the sexual assault was more likely to be reported if the following happened: perpetrator was a stranger, theft, injury, or weapons were used. Furthermore, higher educational levels of the survivors increased the likelihood of reporting the assault.

Female participants of the Pino and Meier study were more likely to report the sexual assault at the following rates if the specific variables were present: twice as likely to report if the assault was committed by a stranger; four times as likely to report if there was theft and three times as likely to report if there was injury. Male survivors were more likely to report if the sexual assault resulted in injuries. In addition, males were eight times more likely to report the sexual assault if medical treatment was necessary.

Dunn, Vail-Smith, and Knight's (1999) study explored what sexual assault survivors told others and how the recipients of the disclosure feel. The purpose of the study was to determine if date/acquaintance sexual assault survivors disclosed the assault to other females or males. It must be noted that previous studies have been completed regarding the effects of sexual assault on women, but there have been limited studies regarding the disclosure of the assault.

The Dunn et al. (1999) study consisted of 828 college students. For the purpose of their study, date/acquaintance sexual assault was defined as sexual intercourse (forced or coerced) by a date, friend, or an acquaintance. The study used one survey tool that incorporated other surveys/questionnaires from previous studies and the tool gathered both quantitative and qualitative data. The participants were divided into two categories: (1) participants who knew someone who had been sexual assaulted and (2) participants who did not know anyone who had been sexually assaulted (this group was not included in the study). The first category included 282 (34%) of the participants (52.5% women and 37.8% men) who had a sexual assault disclosed to them. Of the 282 of participants, there were a total of 396 sexual assault incidents disclosed to the participants. Accordingly, 73% (n = 206) had one survivor disclose sexual assault to the participant; 19% (n = 54) of participants had two survivors disclose sexual assaults; 5% (n = 14) had three survivors disclose sexual assaults, and 3% (n=8) had four or more survivors disclose sexual assault.

In addition, the Dunn et al. (1999) study included open-ended questions related to participant's reactions to the disclosures. Responses included: "didn't know what to say"; "shocked"; "didn't know what to do"; "just listened"; "offered comfort" and "gave advice". Few respondents wrote more than two sentences. The reactions of the participants when the sexual assault was disclosed to them were shock, disbelief, surprise, anger, and sadness. Some participants urged the survivor to get counseling and/or tell law enforcement.

College students in the Dunn et al. (1999) study were aware that date/acquaintance sexual assault exists. However, the participants indicated that they



were unsure as to how to respond. Accordingly, universities should offer prevention and education courses to all college students so that they may be aware of the dangers and how to respond if someone discloses sexual assault to them. More specifically, college students should know to believe/trust the survivor, to avoid probing questions, and to allow the survivor to disclose only what the survivor wants to disclose. Therefore, educational programs should be in place and focus on risk reduction, awareness, and psychological impact of sexual assault and assistance to the survivor. This study indicated that survivors disclose their sexual assault experiences to others who are friends and/or family. However, reporting of sexual assault to police is an entirely different experience.

#### *Law Enforcement and Sexual Assault*

Temkin (1997) examined law enforcement's handling of sexual assault reports. The purpose of the study was to examine police practices when interviewing sexual assault survivors in Sussex (Britain). In the 1970s and early 1980s, police treated sexual assault survivors as if the sexual assault was their fault and the sexual assault survivors were the perpetrators. Due to the treatment of the sexual assault survivors, the public demanded that law enforcement attend sexual assault workshops to become better educated on handling sexual assault cases.

The method in the Temkin (1997) study included two groups: 23 sexual assault survivors and 16 police officers. Both groups were interviewed to determine their reactions and experiences with police officers, sexual assault survivors, and the sexual assault cases. Due to the sensitive nature of the crime, the interviewer did not ask

specific questions relating to the sexual assault case and detailed accounts. Instead, the interviewer was allowed to review the survivor's statements.

The Temkin (1997) study interview with survivors lasted approximately 2 hours and was conducted by a female interviewer. The survivors were asked detailed questions about the handling of their cases by law enforcement. These questions included the aspects of the case which included how they were treated when contacting law enforcement, the first encounter with law enforcement, the medical examines, making a statement with law enforcement personnel, investigation of the case, follow-up by law enforcement personnel, and experiences with the court system.

The following results of the Temkin (1997) study were found:

1. The participants responded positively about treatment by law enforcement personnel.
2. The respondents were satisfied with the time frame that law enforcement personnel responded after law enforcement was called. The respondents were satisfied with the initial police meeting, which law enforcement personnel were wearing plain clothes, and that law enforcement personnel drove unmarked cars. The survivors felt that their privacy was protected.
3. The majority of the respondents were "uniformally" satisfied with their treatment from medical professionals during the medical examination.
4. Of the 23 survivors, 13 women experienced high levels of distress during this time. The statements took hours and days to complete. Some were not offered food or drink and had to stay at the police station for the duration. However, 22 of the 23 survivors were "pleased" with the

attitude and professionalism of law enforcement officers. Positive comments by the survivor reflected: law enforcement personnel allowed them to take their time when answering questions, police comforted them, and law enforcement officers showed concern and sensitivity. Of the 16 police officers taking the statement, two were male.

5. Of the 23 survivors, 70% were "pleased" with the process of the investigation. Three of the survivors felt that the treatment from law enforcement personnel was harsh and this mainly stemmed from suspicion from law enforcement personnel and negative/harsh remarks made by law enforcement personnel regarding the sexual assault.
6. The 23 women were contacted by law enforcement personnel and told about support groups and other resources and how the investigation was proceeding. Thirteen women stated that they did not have much contact with law enforcement personnel and were not told about support groups. When law enforcement officers were asked about follow-ups, 10 officers admitted that they had not contacted survivors as much as they should have due to time constraints and work overload. In addition, nine women complained about lack of contact by law enforcement.
7. The survivors were kept well informed of the court process and some survivors were supported and helped by law enforcement personnel in preparation for testimony. However, 10 women stated that they felt that they did not receive enough information.

Finally, the survivor participants in the Temkin (1997) study were asked about their overall experiences with law enforcement personnel. Of the 23 survivors, 13 (57%) had overall positive experiences, 7 (30%) had mixed positive and negative experiences with law enforcement personnel, and 3 (13%) viewed their overall as negative. Accordingly, 20 (87%) were positive or partially positive about their experiences.

During the Temkin (1997) study interview process with law enforcement officers, some of the officers were negative towards the survivor and told the interviewer that they were purposely harsh and that they did not believe the survivor at times. Of the 16 officers interviewed: 1 had received training on relating to an adult sexual assault survivor and 10 had received some training relating to sexual offenses. Accordingly, further training needed to be provided to police officers to continue improving the interactions between survivors and police.

Bachman (1998) studied the reasons relating to why survivors do or do not report the assault. More specifically, the purpose of the study was to investigate the reporting behavior of sexual assault survivors and arrests made by law enforcement. The study used the National Crime Victimization Survey data from 1992 through 1994. The Bachman study included independent variables of victim-offender relationship, location of victimization, weapon presence, injury, and demographic controls. Dependent variables included survivor's police-reporting behavior and arrest. The main reasons for not reporting sexual assault are listed in Table 3. The most important reasons for reporting sexual assault are found in Table 4.

Bachman (1998) concluded that the main reasons for not reporting the assault were the following:

Table 3

## Reasons Why Victims Did Not Report Sexual Assault.

Statements	Percentage of Respondents
Private matter, took care of it informally	22%
Afraid of reprisal by offender or others	14%
Reported to another official	12%
Minor incident, not clear it was a crime	6%
Did not want to get the offender in trouble	5%
Police wouldn't think it was important	3%
Police would be inefficient or ineffective	3%
Police would be biased or cause respondent trouble	3%
Could not identify offender	2%
Other reason or could not identify most important reason	38%

(p. 21)

Bachman's (1998) results indicated that the most important reason for reporting included:

Table 4  
Reasons Why Victims Did Report to Law Enforcement

Statements	Percentage of Respondents
It was a crime	19%
Prevent further crime	18%
Stop or prevent the incident from happening	9%
Catch the offender	3%
Needed help after the incident	1%
Other reason or could not identify most important reason	46%

(p. 21)

Furthermore, of all the assaults reported to law enforcement only 23% resulted in arrests.

Garcia and Henderson (1999) discussed blind reporting of sexual assault. The philosophy behind this approach would allow for anonymous reporting which would allow law enforcement to investigate sexual crimes without risk of "victimizing" the survivor. This would allow the survivor time to deal with the trauma and decide if she/he wanted to work with law enforcement.

According to Garcia and Henderson (1999), blind reporting has several benefits which include providing law enforcement personnel information about violent patterns in the community and therefore allowing law enforcement personnel to investigate further and educate citizens in the community; allows the survivor to have trust in law enforcement and helps the investigation proceed smoothly; and allows the sexual assault survivor to apply for and receive survivor assistance compensation.

Garcia and Henderson (1999) indicated that, in order to establish a blind reporting system the following criteria needs to be provided:

- law enforcement officials must establish strict confidentiality guidelines;
- law enforcement officials should only accept information offered by the survivor, and only pursue additional information when and if the survivor is ready, and support the survivor if she does not want to pursue the investigation;
- the survivor must be allowed to report when she is comfortable to disclose the assault;
- accept information from other sources must be clarified;
- clarify options and information if future contact is needed;
- blind reports must be maintained in separate files; and
- categorize the information in the reports.

Blind reporting allows a survivor to disclose what has happened, and at the same time, allows law enforcement personnel to view other cases for a connection. If there is a connection, the conviction rate may be higher and, therefore, more information may become evidence.

Another aspect of blind reporting was addressed in the Karjane, Fisher, and Cullen (2002) study. The researchers indicated that an anonymous reporting option would increase reporting of campus sexual assaults. In addition:

A primary strength of this option is that the victim can seek out assistance, information, and support referrals without first having to take the step of identifying her- or himself and formally entering a system the victim does not yet have enough information to effectively negotiate. The anonymous reporting option allows student victims to come forward and talk to a trusted school official without the possibility of losing control of the process. This option allows victims to receive support and information on which to base informed decisions about filing a report in their own name, while also the crime to be documented in the

ASR [Annual Security Report] statistics if the student never feels comfortable with making a formal report. (p. 93)

In summary of blind reporting options, it must be noted that, when someone reported the sexual assault, many emotions and beliefs were present. There were the beliefs and emotions of the survivor, as well as the person to whom she/he was reporting/disclosing the sexual assault. In addition, the majority of the responses related to disclosure of sexual assault to the participants were positive, which indicates societal change and awareness are essential parts of fighting the battle on sexual assault. Furthermore, "student survivors often don't report the crime because they do not recognize that what they experienced could, in fact, be a crime. That is particularly true when the survivor knows the perpetrator, or alcohol is involved" (Stern, 2002, ¶ 5). This myth must be overcome to aid survivors in reporting the assault. A new reporting system such as blind reporting would aid survivors and law officials. Although reporting of sexual assaults is a major factor in prevention and awareness, people still need to be further educated on stereotypes and myths.

### *Sexual Assault Myths*

People's perceptions, attitudes, and stereotypes often dictate beliefs, behaviors, or reactions. Nayak, Byrne, Martin, and Abraham's study (2003) provides a description of rape myths. The study stated:

Specific work on beliefs regarding sexual violence has been conducted within the framework of the culture of violence theory. Burth (1980) described the "rape myth" as a set of attitudes that legitimizes use of sexual violence. Individuals who endorse the rape myth downplay the seriousness of rape as a violent crime and attribute blame to victims of rape. (p. 2)

This definition aids in defining the background of the two major studies involving sexual assault myths by Hinck and Thomas (1999) and Buddie (2001). Both studies were



completed using different methods and hypotheses, but both studies had similar outcomes.

Hinck and Thomas (1999) examined acceptance of current sexual assault myths among college students and whether the participants had ever attended a sexual assault workshop. More specifically, the researchers' hypotheses were (1) college students (male and female) would disagree with sexual assault myth statements; (2) females, in comparison to males, would strongly disagree with the sexual assault myth statements; and (3) male and female college students who had participated in a sexual assault awareness/prevention seminar(s) would have higher levels of "intolerant" attitudes toward sexual assault. In addition to the hypotheses, Hinck and Thomas (1999) proposed the research question of "what factors differentiate 'tolerant' vs. 'intolerant' attitudes toward sexual assault?" (§ 8)

The Hinck and Thomas study was completed in 1995 at a midsized Midwest college. One hundred fifty-eight undergraduate students participated in the study. The participants were given 34-item surveys to complete regarding survivor blaming, denial factors, and perceptions of information.

Participants in the Hinck and Thomas study responded to the sexual assault myths in accordance with the first hypothesis that college students (male and female) would disagree with sexual assault myth statements. Participants significantly disagreed with the sexual assault-supportive statements on the Revised Attitude Toward Sexual Assault Scale ( $M=4.75$ ,  $SD=0.56$ ) and the Sexual Assault Attitude and Perception Scale ( $M=4.93$ ,  $SD=0.47$ ). More specifically, the data supported the hypothesis that:

Although college students tend to report disagreement with rape-oriented statements, men and individuals who have not attended a rape awareness

workshop disagree less strongly with rape-oriented statements than do women and individuals who have attended some type of rape awareness workshop. (§ 15)

Hinck and Thomas (1995) furthered the study by combining the two surveys to form a third sexual assault belief acceptance scale. The combined data indicated that the majority of the participants did not believe the sexual assault myths ( $M=4.86$ ,  $SD=0.47$ ). In addition, the ANOVA revealed that males and females had significantly different views of sexual assault belief statements. Furthermore, participants who had attended a sexual assault seminar had different views than those who had not attended a seminar in relation to sexual assault belief statements. More specifically, Hinck and Thomas (1999) stated:

College students tend to report disagreement with rape-oriented statements, men and individuals who have not attended a rape awareness workshop disagree less strongly with rape-oriented statements than do women and individuals who have attended some type of awareness workshop. (§ 14)

The results of the Hinck and Thomas study determined that the majority of the college students disagree with the sexual assault myths. It was noted that part of students' disagreement was due to education about sexual assault. Furthermore, men are more likely than women to accept the sexual assault myths.

Buddie (2001) examined cultural and societal stereotypes regarding sexual assault survivors and myths. This study looked at sexual assault myths such as, "she asked for it", "she's a slut anyway", and "she's a tease so she deserved it". The myths placed the blame upon the survivor and, accordingly, the survivor was portrayed as the one who caused the sexual assault. The hypotheses focused on people's beliefs and perceptions of sexual assault; sexual assault was a traumatic experience; and most people were aware of sexual assault myths and cultural stereotypes regarding the sexual assault survivor.

Buddie's (2001) study included 241 undergraduate college students at a midwestern university. The participants were given two types of surveys: Rating Scale Survey (Likert scale) and Free Response Survey (qualitative questionnaire with coded responses).

The first survey in Buddie's study (2001) was the Rating Scale Survey. The participants read four different scenarios involving sexual assault. However, of the four scenarios, one scenario was the responses of a targeted scenario used. The targeted scenario portrayed a particular woman and the answers from that scenario were used to determine the outcome. The results of this portion of the study indicated various outcomes on different type of sexual assaults. More specifically, the impression formation tasks questions focused on the participants' own beliefs (personal) and the perceptions they believe that other people have (cultural stereotypes). For example, of 39 bipolar trait ratings, a four-factor solution yielded reflected attractiveness, manipulateness, emotional well-being, and passivity related to cultural expectations of the survivor.

The results revealed several main effects for the type of rape variable. A woman raped by a stranger was seen as less attractive than a woman not raped. Women described as being raped were seen as less manipulative than a woman not raped, and as lower in emotional well-being than a woman not raped. No other effects were significant. (§ 40)

The second survey in Buddie's (2001) study was the Free Response Survey. This survey allowed the participants to independently write their beliefs and perceptions regarding a sexual assault survivor. The results from this portion of the study were supported by the researcher's hypothesis. People's personal beliefs regarding sexual assault survivors included more emotional/behavior reactions and fewer sexual assault

myths. However, cultural stereotypes regarding sexual assault survivors included more sexual assault myths and fewer emotional/behavior reactions. When the researchers compared females and males, females identified more emotional/behavior reactions of the sexual assault survivors and females were more likely to list sexual assault myths in conjunction with cultural stereotypes.

After reviewing both measurements, Buddie (2001) determined that participants believed the sexual assault negatively impacted survivors and that rape was a traumatic experience. The second hypothesis regarding cultural stereotypes and sexual assault myths was also supported in the Free Response Survey portion of the study. The participants listed stereotypes that were actually sexual assault myths (e.g., "she asked for it") and females listed more sexual assault myths than males. This may be linked to the fact that women seek more education and discuss the subject of sexual assault with greater frequency.

Overall, Buddie (2001) concluded that women and men displayed knowledge that sexual assault myths and stereotypes of sexual assault survivors do exist, however, their knowledge levels varied. In addition, it must be noted that this study only pertained to the sexual assault survivor and, accordingly, what is only one portion of the sexual assault experience. In addition to Buddie, other researchers and agencies have developed a list of some of the most common sexual assault myths.

The Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (2003) has also cited sexual assault myths. The following statements are false, but are indeed myths and perceptions:

- Sexual assaults are warranted if the survivor is dressed provocatively or acts in a promiscuous manner;

Foubert and La Voy (2000) targeted the impact of a rape prevention program for fraternity males. (According to the National Victimization Survey (2000), 10% of the perpetrators in sexual assaults are fraternity members and 6.5% occurred in fraternity houses) The study included four fraternities in the experimental group that were offered an educational program regarding sexual assault and four fraternities in the control group that were not offered an educational program. The 1-hour education program was held in a non-confrontational setting and began with a video involving a male-on-male sexual assault. After the video, a discussion took place regarding the video and how it paralleled female sexual assault. After 7 months, members of the eight fraternities were given a two open-ended post-test survey questions to evaluate their attitudes and behaviors towards sexual assault. The results of the study indicated that the education program improved the experimental group male perceptions and attitudes towards sexual assault.

Meilman and Haygood-Jackson (1996) studied a mid-sized middle-Atlantic university (45.9% male and 54.1% female students) that aggressively educated students regarding sexual assault and formed the Sexual Assault Task Force. The Sexual Assault Task Force is headed by a coordinator and the Task Force performs the following duties:

- providing educational workshops for students;
- revising of disciplinary policies and procedures;
- developing protocols for student health center, campus police, residence life staff, the dean's office, and counseling center personnel to follow up upon learning that a student has been victimized;
- establishing a reporting system to record every sexual assault incident;

- working with “sexual assault companions”.

(¶ 4)

Incoming freshman were required to attend small-group presentations and additional educational programs were offered on campus throughout the school year. In addition, volunteers (“sexual assault companions”) were on-call at all times to assist students ranging from going to the hospital for medical treatment, answering questions, and/or other support. These programs resulted in an increase of reporting of sexual assault. “In the first two years of the new program, 65 students have come forward. This compares with a combined total of 12 in the previous three years.” (Meilman & Haygood-Jackson, 1996, ¶ 8).

Accordingly, the Foubert and La Voy (2000) and Meilman and Haygood-Jackson (1996) studies indicated that education, awareness, and prevention are key instruments in battling sexual assault. Another important component is supportive services, such as counseling.

### *Supportive Services*

Supportive services are an essential part in helping women and families cope with violence. In the United States, each state has sexual assault and domestic violence agencies. In addition, many universities and colleges have supportive services such as on-site counseling and/or sexual assault organizations.

*The Current Study.* In relation to the current study, supportive services in the location of the university are extensive for a community of this size. The university campus offers support including counseling services and sexual assault counseling and information services. Other services located in the area include a local domestic violence

shelter and a county mental health service. Services for all agencies are free with the exception of the county mental health agency, which offers a sliding fee scale.

The sexual assault counseling and information services offered on campus is a non-profit agency that provides services to assist survivors of sexual assault and significant others of the survivors to reclaim power and control of their lives. The agency provides a large number of services including medical advocacy, criminal justice advocacy, institutional advocacy, individual counseling, group counseling, referral services, community and university programs, school programs, and professional education. All services are free and confidential. The agency covers two additional counties and two additional communities in the midwest.

The sexual assault counseling and information service agency offers volunteer training to students, as well as community members. Those who participate in the 40 hour training is qualified to staff the 24-hour crisis telephone line. If someone (student or community member) is sexually assaulted, she or he can call the crisis line to talk to an advocate. The advocate will assist the survivor during the emergency room visit or offer support if the survivor does not seek medical attention. In addition, if the survivor files a police report, a legal advocate will support the survivor during the court process. It must be noted that a legal advocate is not an attorney and, accordingly, the legal advocate explains the court process and aids the survivor in working with law enforcement. If the survivor desires counseling, the agency offers counseling and support groups for adults and children. The agency collaborates with all community service agencies in the area to provide a wide network of support opportunities for survivors.

In addition, a new state law in Illinois known as the Civil No Contact Order (HB 1400, signed July 22, 2003), allows sexual assault survivors to file for protection against the perpetrator. The Civil No Contact Order is granted by a judge and states that the perpetrator is not allowed to be near the survivor or have contact with the survivor. This is a safety tool to enhance protection for the survivor. The Civil No Contact Order consists of the following elements:

- Statute that is independent from the Illinois Domestic Violence Act;
- Emergency/short provision and/or a long term provision;
- Available to individuals alleging sexual assault (sexual assault as defined by the Illinois Criminal Sexual Assault Act);
- Available to survivors who do not have a prior relationship with the perpetrator;
- Free court and filing costs;
- Requires the perpetrator to stay away from the survivor; and
- Perpetrator's name id added to the Law Enforcement Agency Data System (L.E.A.D.S), including after a violation of such an order.

(Schollett, 2001)

For example, if the perpetrator comes near the survivor, then she is able to contact law enforcement officials. When law enforcement officials respond, the official will review the L.E.A.D.S. system and if there is an order of protection against the perpetrator, law enforcement officials have the option of arresting the perpetrator for violating the order.

Supportive services provide assistance for the survivor, as well as for family and friends. Such services offer a variety of options to the survivor and, in most cases, the services are free. In all cases, the services are confidential.



*Title IX and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*

Title IX encompasses preventative mandates and aid to sexual assault survivors. Title IX was enacted in the early 1970s “to recognize and federally proscribe sexual harassment at colleges as a form of gender-based discrimination” (Gold & Villari, 2000, p. 218). It must be noted, however, that it has taken approximately 30 years for the law to be applied to sexual violence. This law raises questions and debates of colleges’ and universities’ responsibilities for the actions of perpetrators. More specifically, has the college or the university contributed to the creation of a hostile environment? There is no clear answer to the question, however, courts continue to work toward an answer.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Title IV of the Violence Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, was enacted by Congress in 1994. This law addresses sexual and domestic violence against women and provides grant assistance. According to the Urban Institute (nd) provides grants that:

The grants are ‘to assist States, Indian tribal governments, and units of local government to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women, and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violence crimes against women’. (§ 1)

In 1995, grants totaling \$23.5 million were distributed among the 50 states. This law aids women’s rights, education of police and court officials, and funds sexual and domestic violence programs and prevention, education, and awareness programs. Unlike the Clery Act or Title IX, the purpose of this law is to aid in funding for programs to assist survivors and their families.

The Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized in 2000, allowing the federal government to continue funding assistance programs. In addition to the reauthorization, a new acronym is being used in conjunction. The government has labeled this block grant

as S.T.O.P. (Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Act.

This initiative offers “federal resources for police, prosecutors, courts, and victim service initiatives in cases involving sexual violence or domestic abuse” (Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 2003). The reauthorization has designated funding for the following: law enforcement agencies receive 25%, prosecution receives 25%, non-profit/non-government victim service agencies (domestic violence and sexual assault) receive 30%, and courts receive 5%.

#### *Summary of Review of Literature*

The literature on sexual assault is wide and varied. Sexual assault remains a topic that is infrequently discussed and involves shame and embarrassment. However, the problem of sexual assault does exist and sexual assault is real. The scope and magnitude of sexual assault must be addressed. With education, prevention, and awareness programs to dispel sexual assault myths, awareness of the problem will be heightened.

Some universities and colleges are taking a strong stance against sexual assault and educating students on prevention and awareness of sexual assault, such as within freshman orientation programs. Other campuses are creating sexual assault task forces to address the issues. All of these programs serve as positive models for other campuses.

### Chapter III

#### *Methodology*

Sexual assault continues to be underreported and, accordingly, perpetrators are not held responsible for their criminal activities. The purpose of this study was to examine disclosure, formal reporting, and support services related to sexual assault. The decision to include only females was due primarily to a large number of survivors being female. First, the study explored the disclosure or non-disclosure of sexual assault by friends or family members of the participant. Second, the study identified how many participants have experienced sexual assault. Third, the study explored whether survivors reported the sexual assault incident. Fourth, the study explored the participant's experience(s) with law enforcement personnel and support services in relation to the sexual assault. The results of the study will be compared to national statistics.

Selected university women were given the Sexual Assault Disclosure (SAD) Survey (see Appendix A), a 35-item survey consisting of 34 quantitative questions and one qualitative question. After completing the survey, the results were grouped into one of three categories: (1) participants had a sexual assault incident disclosed to them; (2) no one had disclosed a sexual assault incident to the participant; (3) participant had experienced a sexual assault herself. All three groups were included in the study.

The SAD Survey and Informed Consent (see Appendix B) were approved by the university's Research Involving Human Subjects Committee prior to distribution of the survey. The Informed Consent stated that participation in the study was voluntary.

### *Pilot Study*

A pilot study was implemented in Fall 2003. During the pilot study, 23 participants (22 female, 1 male) in one class at a mid-sized university located in the midwest and one class at a mid-sized community college in the midwest were given the Sexual Assault Disclosure Survey. The objectives and hypotheses of the pilot study were similar to the objectives and hypotheses of this current study.

The first question on the survey asked if rape/sexual assault had been disclosed to the participants, and if so, how many people did they know who had experienced sexual assault. The results were as follows: 30% (n=7) said they did not know anyone who had experienced sexual assault; 30% (n=7) said they knew 1 person who had disclosed sexual assault; 13% (n=3) said they knew 2 people who had been sexually assaulted; 9% (n=2) knew 3 people who had been sexually assaulted, and 18% (n=4) knew 4 or more people who had been sexually assaulted.

It must be noted that of the 23 participants, 70% (n=16) knew of someone (listed as disclosure) who had been sexually assaulted. Furthermore, of the 30% (n=7) who reported that they did not know of anyone who had been sexually assaulted, 29% (n=2) had been sexually assaulted themselves. When both the frequencies of disclosure (n=16) and those who did not know someone that was sexually assaulted, but they were sexually assaulted (n=2), were added together, the overall percentage of sexual assault (listed as total experiences) increased to 78% (n=18).

The second hypothesis was related to thirteen questions. The objective of the questions was to determine if the survivor reported the sexual assault, then how long did it take to report the sexual assault and what was the reaction of the participant when the

survivor disclosed the assault to her or him. Of the 16 participants who knew of someone who had experienced rape/sexual assault (totaling 18 disclosures due to multiple disclosures to some participants), only 28% (n=5) of the victims had reported the sexual assault, 67% (n=12) had not reported the sexual assault, and 5% (n=1) did not know if the sexual assault was reported or not.

When asked if the participants had experienced sexual assault, 61% (n=14) indicated that they had experienced sexual assault and, of that percentage, only 14% (n=2) had reported the sexual assault. Accordingly, 86% (n=12) of the participants who were sexually assaulted did not report.

The second objective was to determine how many people chose not report sexual assault and to compare results to the national statistics. The pilot study indicated that 67% (n=12) of the 18 disclosures to participants had not been reported and there was an additional 5% (n=1) as unknown. Furthermore, of the 14 participants who had been assaulted 86% (n=12) did not report. In comparison to the pilot study results, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2003) statistics of 1 out of every 4 (25%) college women experiencing rape/sexual assault were low. In fact, the higher percentages of the pilot study indicated that more than the 25% of women have experienced sexual assault and that the reason for the national percentage of 25% is due to non-reporting.

The reactions of the participants when someone disclosed sexual assault to them were generally reassuring toward the survivor. The open-ended qualitative question asked, "What was your reaction to the survivor when she told you about her rape/sexual assault?" Common reactions included "very surprised", "shocked", "numbed", "wanted

to help", "support her", "astonishment", "you would never had [sic] known it", "sadness", "worry", "cried", "hugged", and "I understood because I had been there. I was raped and felt we could relate and confined [sic] with each other." These reassuring actions and remarks may reflect the prevention, education, and support programs that focus on sexual assault and rape that have been presented in schools, churches, businesses, and media.

The results of the pilot study reflected higher percentages than the national percentages on number of sexual assaults and the number of sexual assaults that were not reported. The pilot study assisted in establishing validity and reliability due to the comparisons to national data. In addition, the pilot study influenced further refinement of the data collection procedure and, accordingly, the survey tool was redesigned for the current study.

### *Research Design*

The current study was a non-experimental survey design. Multi-method approaches of quantitative and qualitative questions were included. In addition to descriptive statistics, several questions elicited open-ended data.

### *Sample*

The participants consisted of 370 female students enrolled in a mid-sized university located in the midwest. The participants were freshmen through seniors, ranging in age from 18 through 24. There were 12 university-recognized, female-only student organizations that were asked to participate, and 11 agreed to participate in the study. The university's Office of Student Affairs provided a list of all female-only

recognized student organizations. One organization refused to participate in the current study due to the nature of the subject matter.

### *Instrumentation*

The Sexual Assault Disclosure (SAD) Survey was based on the research of Dunn, Vail-Smith, and Knight (1999). The SAD Survey consisted of three sections, with the first two sections consisting of 34 quantitative questions and one qualitative question (see Appendix A). The third section, a comment section, allowed the participants an opportunity to provide additional related information.

The quantitative questions in the first section were focused on the disclosure of sexual assault to the participant, information regarding the survivor who disclosed the sexual assault to the participant, reporting or non-reporting of sexual assault, the perpetrator in the disclosure, and the circumstances of the assault. The qualitative question in the second section asked participants about personal reactions when a sexual assault incident was disclosed. The quantitative questions in the third section were focused on whether the participant had experienced sexual assault, the reporting of sexual assault, the perpetrator of the sexual assault, the circumstances of the assault, and the reasons for reporting/non-reporting. Two questions of the survey were used for collecting demographic information.

### *Procedure for Data Collection*

The researcher contacted representatives from university-recognized, female-only student organizations and provided the representatives with information regarding the study. The researcher explained to the representatives that the study was confidential and had been approved by the university's Research Involving Human Subjects Committee.

If the representatives consented to participate, a time was set for the researcher to attend a regularly scheduled meeting.

The survey was distributed during regular meetings of the student organizations. The researcher spoke with nine groups at the beginning of their meetings and two groups at the end of their meetings. Before distributing the survey, the researcher gave a brief overview of the research study and factual information regarding sexual assault. This overview started with asking the participants to close their eyes and visualize themselves and three of their friends. After a brief time, the participants were asked to keep their eyes closed and the participants were informed that, by the end of their university career, 1 of the 4 will have experienced sexual assault. After a brief pause, the participants were informed that, by the age of 30, two of them will experience violence in their lives. After another brief pause, the participants were informed that, within their lifetimes, between 2 and 3 (66%) of them will experience violence in their lives. Next, the participants were told several factual accounts of others who had experienced sexual assault and the circumstances surrounding the assaults. Also, informed consent and confidentiality were explained to the participants and the participants were given the option not to participate. Finally, the participants were provided information regarding sexual assault and instructions for the survey.

The surveys were distributed and the researcher asked that the participants find a private place to complete the survey. Upon completion, the participants returned surveys to the researcher.



### *Validity and Reliability*

The content is relative to the study and the scoring from the Sexual Assault Disclosure Survey closely parallels the study completed by Dunn, Vail-Smith, and Knight (1999). Furthermore, the Sexual Assault Disclosure Survey was reviewed by three professionals in the sexual assault field prior to data collection.

### *Data Analysis*

The surveys were hand tabulated by the researcher and an assistant. The quantitative questions of the survey were calculated and descriptive statistics of percentages and frequencies were assigned. The data analysis presentation for quantitative questions included bar graphs, pie charts, and tables. The qualitative questions allowed the participants to express their feelings concerning the disclosure and reporting of the sexual assault. The qualitative responses were analyzed to determine emergent themes and patterns among responses.

## Chapter IV

### *Results and Discussion*

The current study collected data from female-only recognized organizations located at a mid-sized university in the Midwest. This university had sexual assault counseling services on the campus. The results of the study (see Appendix C) were compared to national statistics related to the objectives of the study. The sample included 370 participants who were enrolled at the university. The purpose of the current study was to determine the frequency of non-reporting of sexual assault, reasons why women do not report sexual assault, and if women are using sexual assault resources.

The current study was guided by six research objectives. They were:

1. To determine the number of female participants who were aware of women who had experienced sexual assault.
2. To determine the impact of disclosure on the participants.
3. To identify the number of women who did or did not report sexual assault
4. To compare the results of reporting or non-reporting to national statistics.
5. To explore survivor's satisfaction with law enforcement and the judicial system.
6. To determine the number of participants who were aware of sexual assault support services.

This study had six hypotheses:

1. The majority of participants have experienced another person disclosing sexual assault to them.

2. The majority of women who have experienced sexual assault have not reported the assault.
3. The number of unreported sexual assaults will accurately reflect the national norms.
4. The majority of participants who have experienced sexual assault had satisfactory encounters with law enforcement and the judicial system.
5. The majority of participants who have experienced sexual assault are aware of support services.
6. The majority of participants who have experienced sexual assaults have utilized support services.

### *Sample Demographics*

Participants involved in the study were members of a campus recognized female only organization. The 370 participants were predominately Caucasian American. Table 5 provides the breakdown according to race/ethnicity.

Table 5  
Ethnic/Racial Distribution

Ethnicity/Race	Percentage (%)	Total Number (n=)
Caucasian American	89	329
African American	4	15
Hispanic/Latino	3	11
Unidentified	3	11
Asian	1	3
Asian American	.3	1

The mid-sized university's racial/ethnic composition was reflective of the participants in the study. The university has predominately Caucasian American students, followed by African American students.

The ages of the participants ranged from 18-24 years of age with a mean of 19.8 years, a mode of 20 years, and a median of 20 years. Accordingly, Table 6 displays the percentages and frequencies of the age groups in the study.

Table 6

## Age Distribution

Age (Years)	Percentage (%)	Number (n=)
18	13	47
19	29	107
20	31	115
21	18	68
22	5	18
23	2	7
24	.3	1
Unidentified	2	7

Accordingly, the above age ranges allow the current study to be compared to national statistics to determine the validity and reliability of the study.

*Disclosure of Sexual Assault to the Participant*

SAD Survey question 1 asked the participants if anyone had disclosed sexual assault to them. Table 7 provides a breakdown of the responses with percentages and frequencies.

Table 7  
Disclosure of Sexual Assault Incidents

Number of Disclosures	Percentage	Number (n=)
0 Disclosures	51	190
1 Disclosure	26	96
2 Disclosures	14	51
3 Disclosures	5	19
4 or more Disclosures	4	14

In accordance with Table 7, 49% (n=51) of the participants have known someone who was sexually assaulted. Of the 51% (n=190) of participants who did not know anyone who was sexually assaulted, 13% (n=24) were sexually assaulted themselves. Of the 4 or more disclosures, 4 participants knew of 4 women who were sexually assaulted; 4 participants knew of 5 women who had been sexually assaulted; 1 participant knew of 6 women who had been sexually assaulted; 3 participants knew of 7 women who had been sexually assaulted; 1 participant knew of 10 women who had experienced sexual assault; and 1 participant knew of 11 women who had been sexually assaulted. This totaled 84 disclosures of sexual assault among 14 participants. Collectively, the 370 participants knew of 339 total disclosures of sexual assault.

The Dunn et al. (1999) study of 828 college students supports the disclosure rate of the current study. In addition, the Dunn et al. (1999) study used a similar survey tool that incorporated both quantitative and qualitative data and the participants were divided into two categories: (1) participants who knew someone who had been sexual assaulted and (2) participants who did not know anyone who had been sexually assaulted. The first

category included 282 (34%) of the participants (52.5% women and 37.8% men) who had a sexual assault disclosed to them. Of the 282 of participants, there were a total of 396 sexual assault incidents disclosed to the participants. Accordingly, 73% (n = 206) had one victim disclose sexual assault to the participant; 19% (n = 54) of participants had two victims disclose sexual assaults; 5% (n = 14) had three victims disclose sexual assaults, and 3% (n=8) had four or more victims disclose sexual assault victims disclose.

#### *Age of the Survivor When the Sexual Assault Happened*

Question 2 of the SAD Survey determined the age of the survivor when the sexual assault occurred. Of the 329 responses to the question, 7 survivors were listed as having an unknown age; accordingly, this number has been omitted from the analysis. While still valuable, it holds no numeric value. The ranges of the answers were ages 1 through 60. The mean was 16.89 years of age. The mode and median were the same at 18 years of age. In addition, it must be noted that the majority of sexual assaults happened between the ages of 16 to 20, with 231 (70%) of the 329 sexual assaults during that time frame. This may be attributed to the beginning of car dating and parties in high school and also the first two years of college.

#### *Ethnicity/Race of the Survivor?*

Question 3 of the SAD survey asked for the ethnicity/race of the survivor. There were 327 responses and the results are listed in Table 8.

Table 8  
Ethnic/Race of Survivor

Ethnicity/Race	Percentage (%)	Number (n=)
Caucasian	87	284
African American	9	29
Hispanic/Latino	4	13
Asian	0	0
Unknown	.3	1
Other (Please specify)	0	0

The ethnic/racial composition of the disclosing survivors was similar to the ethnic/racial composition of the participants.

#### *Perpetrator of the Sexual Assault*

Question 4 addressed the perpetrator of the sexual assault. Friend/Acquaintance made up 42% (n=138) of the 328 responses. The second most frequently answered categories were stranger at 14% (n=45) and boyfriend at 14% (n=45). Dates were 10% (n= 34) and family members were 10% (n=33) of the perpetrators. The least frequently answered were unknown at 5% (n=17) and boyfriend at 5% (n=16). Spouse and ex-spouse were not indicated as answers.

The participants were asked to specify the relationship when a family member was the perpetrator. Thirty three responses are categorized in Table 9.

Table 9  
Family Relationship of the Perpetrator

Family Relationship	Percentage %	Number (n=)
No Relationship Specified	52	17
Brother	12	4
Father	9	3
Uncle	9	3
Stepfather	6	2
Grandfather	6	2
Babysitter	3	1
Family Friend	3	1

Of the 33 responses, brother at 12% (n=4) had the highest frequency, followed by father at 9% (n=3). The Koss and Harvey (1991) study stated that 11% of perpetrators were fathers and stepfathers in sexual assaults. In this current study combined percentages of father and stepfather total 15%.

Of the 328 responses, it can be concluded that 81% (n=266) of the survivors knew their perpetrator. It must be noted that 5% (n=17) were unknown to the participants and, accordingly, this could raise the percentage of known perpetrators to 86% (n=283). Therefore, these statistics align with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence statistics that 80-90% of the perpetrators are known to the survivor.



### *Age of the Perpetrator When the Sexual Assault Occurred*

Question 5 asked what was the exact or estimated age of the perpetrator when the sexual assault occurred. Of the 327 responses, 36% (n=117) marked age as unknown. Known ages ranged from 10 through 60, with ages 17 through 21 as the largest age segment (n=51) with a mode age of 20. The median was 21 years of age and the mean was 20.96 years of age. It can be concluded that the mean, mode, and median ages of the perpetrators were slightly greater (1-2 years) than the ages of survivors.

### *Ethnicity/Race of the Perpetrator?*

Question 6 of the SAD survey asked for the ethnicity/race of the perpetrator. There were 325 responses and the results are listed in Table 10.

Table 10

Ethnic/Race of the Perpetrator

Ethnicity/Race	Percentage (%)	Number (n=)
Caucasian	71	231
Unknown	12	38
African American	11	35
Hispanic/Latino	6	21
Asian	0	0
Other (Please specify)	0	0

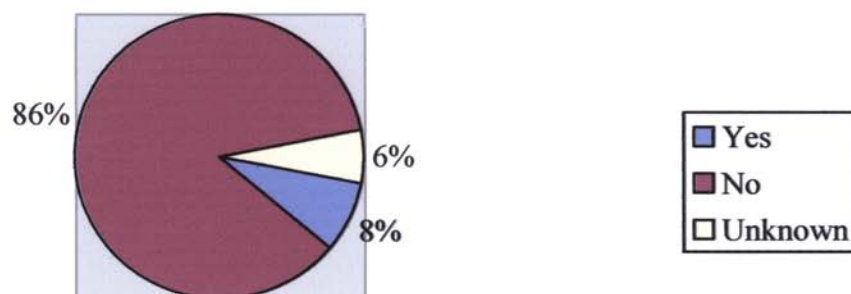
The ethnic/racial composition of perpetrators was similar to the ethnic/racial composition of survivors. Caucasian had the highest percentage and frequency followed by African American.

*Survivor Report of the Sexual Assault to the Police*

Question 7 asked if the survivor reported the sexual assault to the police. Of the 335 responses, 86% (n=290) responded no, 8% (n=24) responded yes, and 6% (n=21) responded unknown. As evidenced by Chart 1, overwhelming majority of survivors did not report their sexual assault to the police.

Chart 1

## Sexual Assaults Reported to Police



The responses to Question 7 were consistent with Koss and Harvey's (1991) study of 7000 college students. In the Koss and Harvey study, only 5% of sexual assaults were reported to the police. In addition, the National Crime Survey (1991) found that, of 207,610 sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults, only 16% of sexual assaults were reported. Accordingly, the current study found that 8% of sexual assaults were reported, which is slightly higher than Koss and Harvey's study, but lower than the National Crime Survey. Accordingly, it can be concluded that the results of this question are consistent with other studies.

### *Survivor Report of the Sexual Assault to Other People*

Question 8 asked if and to whom did the survivor report the sexual assault than the police (see Table 11). Of the 377 responses, friends ranked the highest at 57% (n=214). Survivors indicated counseling service personnel at 7% (n=27). It must be noted that some participants answered this question with multiple answers. However, the responses are consistent with Koss and Harvey's (1991) study of 7000 college students and the Fisher, Daigle, Cullen & Turner (2003) study. In the Fisher et al. study, 87.9% of the participants disclosed the assault to friends. In the Koss and Harvey study, only 5% of sexual assaults were disclosed to sexual assault crisis center personnel.

Table 11

#### Survivor Disclosure of Sexual Assault

Response	Percentage (%)	Number (n=)
Friend	57	214
Family Member	14	53
Unknown	13	50
Counseling services	7	27
Other	6	22
Hospital	3	11

When asked to specify family member relationship, 14% (n=53) who reported the sexual assault to family members, listed mother at 23% (n=12), parents at 13% (n=7), and sister at 9% (n=5). There were 62% (n=33) of responses that did not identify the relationship of the family member.

*Time Between the Sexual Assault and Survivor Report/Disclosure*

Question 9 asked how much time occurred between the sexual assault and the time of the survivor reporting/disclosing to someone. The participants were asked to specify according to days, months, or years. There were 318 responses to the question and the breakdown follows in Table 12.

Table 12  
Time Frame of Disclosing Sexual Assault

Time Frame	Percentage (%)	Number (n=)
1 Day or less	21	68
2-7 Days	8	25
1-3 Weeks	13	42
1 Month	8	26
2-12 Months	17	53
1-2 Years	9	28
3-14 Years	8	27
Unknown	20	63

It may be concluded that between 1 day and 1 month, 42% (n=135) of the participants disclosed the sexual assault to someone. During the time frame of 2-12 months, 17% (n=53) of the participants disclosed the assault. For another 17% (n=55), 1 year or more passed before disclosing the sexual assault. One participant reported that one of the sexual assaults was ongoing at the time of data collection.

### *Places Sexual Assault Occurred*

Question 10 asked where the sexual assault occurred. The responses to this question were consistent with comparable research literature. The following table illustrates the 333 responses.

Table 13

#### Place of or Activity at the Time of Sexual Assault

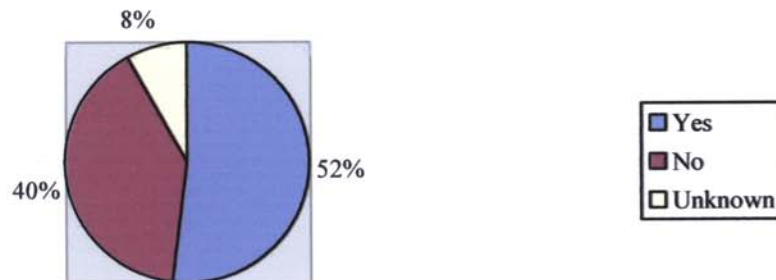
Place/Activity	Percentage (%)	Number (n=)
During a party with alcohol	37	121
In the perpetrator's home	20	68
In the survivor's home	19	64
Other	11	38
During a date	6	20
During a party without alcohol	4	12
In a car	3	10

The list of "other location" was varied. Unknown places had the highest percentage and frequency at 29% (n=11). The next highest percentages and frequencies were dorm rooms at 13% (n=5), and 5% (n=2) in a sister's home. The following locations were only indicated once (n=1) in the responses: abandoned building, school, park, behind club, outside, bar, Mexico, camping, parking lot, friend's room, alley behind bar, church, home, playground, Tijuana, university campus, garage, and survivor's room.

*Survivor Drinking/Drug Usage at the Time the Sexual Assault Occurred*

Question 11 asked if the survivor had been drinking or using drugs at the time of the sexual assault. Of 326 responses, 52% (n=169) replied yes, 40% (n=132) replied no, and 8% (n=25) replied unknown. The results are comparable to national studies, as the percentage is only slightly lower. Koss and Harvey's (1991) study indicated that 55% of campus sexual assaults included the use of drugs and/or alcohol. Chart 2 illustrates the results of the current study involving the survivors' use of alcohol and drug:

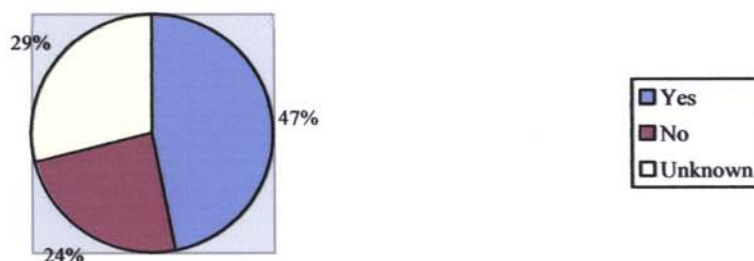
Chart 2

*Survivor's Use of Alcohol and/or Drugs**Perpetrator Drinking/Drug Usage at the Time the Sexual Assault Occurred*

Question 12 asked if the perpetrator had been drinking or using drugs at the time of the sexual assault. Of the 324 responses, 47% (n=154) replied yes, 24% (n=77) replied no, and 29% (n=93) replied unknown. Chart 3 illustrates the results of the perpetrators use of alcohol and/or drugs

Chart 3

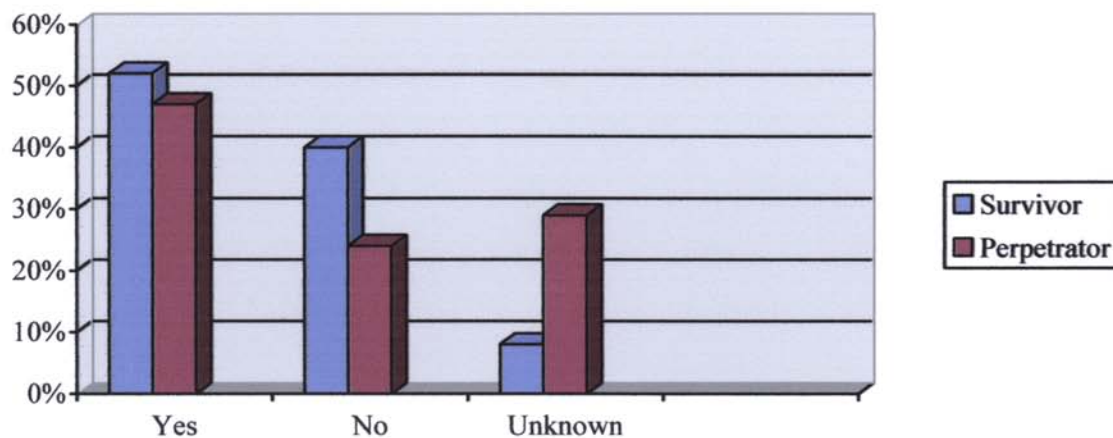
Perpetrator's Use of Alcohol and/or Drugs.



Comparison between SAD Survey questions 11 and 12 are shown on Graph 1, illustrating survivor and perpetrator use of drugs and/or alcohol.

Graph 1

Comparison of Survivor and Perpetrator Use of Alcohol and/or Drugs



### *Reporting of the Sexual Assault From the Survivor to the Participant*

Question 13 asked how the participant learned about the sexual assault from the survivor. Of the 325 participants, 86% (n=280) learned of the sexual assault through individual conversations. Group discussions accounted for 10% (n=33), while Other consisted of 4% (n=12). It must be noted that responses to "Other (please specify)" was not specified by participants, except for one response. The response that clarified Other indicated that she witnessed the sexual assault of the survivor.

### *Participants Reaction When the Sexual Assault was Disclosed*

Question 14 asked participants of their reaction when they were informed of the sexual assault. There were 453 reactions listed on the surveys. The most common reaction was "shocked" (n=105), followed by sadness, upset, surprise, anger, sympathy, fear, disgust, concern, worry, to encourage counseling, crying, support, mad, and hurt. The majority of the responses were positive and non-blaming of the victim. However, it must be noted that several comments were victim-blaming. These comments included "disbelief – she was sexually promiscuous and a habitual liar", "blamed the victim", and "it had become normal to her". Complete list of responses can be found in Appendix C.

### *Participant's Experience with Sexual Assault*

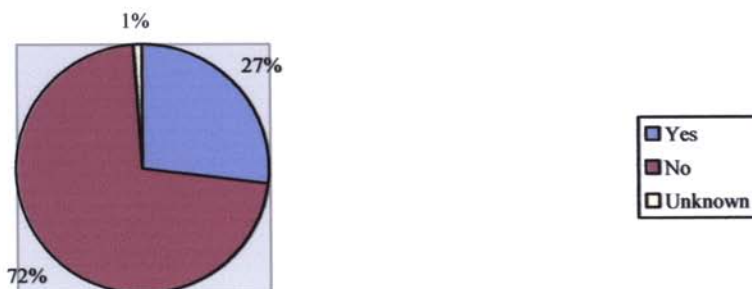
Question 15 asked participants if they had ever been in a situation in which they had experienced sexual assault. Of the 370 participants, 27% (n=101) replied yes, 72% (n=265) replied no, 1% (n=4) marked unknown, and three participants did not complete this portion of the survey (see Chart 3). The 27% that had been sexually assaulted compares to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2003) study citing that 1



out of every 4 college women (25%) has experienced sexual assault by the time of graduation. Accordingly, this university's statistics align with those national statistics.

Chart 4

Participant Experiences of Sexual Assault

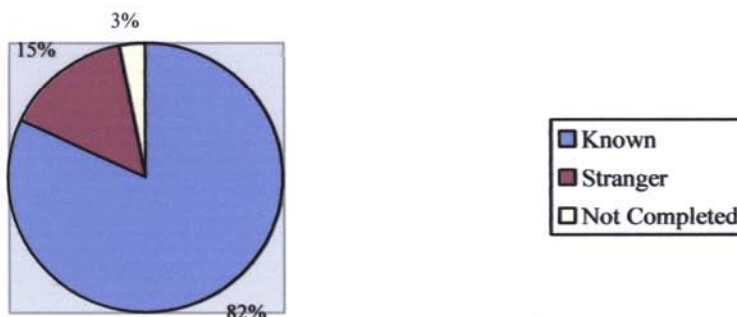


*Perpetrator Identity*

Question 16 addressed the perpetrator of the sexual assault against the participant. Friend/Acquaintance made up 42% (n=45) of the 107 responses. Table 14 lists the categories of perpetrators, as well as percentages and frequencies for each category.

Chart 5

Was the Perpetrator Known or a Stranger to Survivors



#### *Age of the Perpetrator When the Sexual Assault Occurred*

Question 17 asked the participant for the exact or estimated age of the perpetrator at the time of the sexual assault. Of 102 responses, the perpetrator ages ranged from 12 years to 70 years of age. The mean was 19.98 years of age, the median was 19 years, and the mode was age 18. The ages with the highest incidences were ages 18 ( $n=22$ ), 19 ( $n=18$ ), and 20 ( $n=17$ ). It must be noted that of the 102 responses, 7 responses were unknown and 1 did not answer. Accordingly, the data for question 17 were based upon 94 responses.

#### *Report of the Sexual Assault to the Police*

Question 18 asked if the participant reported the sexual assault to the police. Of 103 responses, 6% ( $n=6$ ) replied yes and 94% ( $n=97$ ) replied no (see Chart 5). Again, these statistics aligned with national statistics. The response was similar in Koss and Harvey's (1991) study of 7000 college students. In the Koss and Harvey study, 95% of sexual assaults were not reported to the police. Accordingly, it can be concluded that the

results of question 18 are consistent with other comparable studies, as well as SAD Survey Question 7 that asked "Did the survivor report the sexual assault to the police".

Chart 6

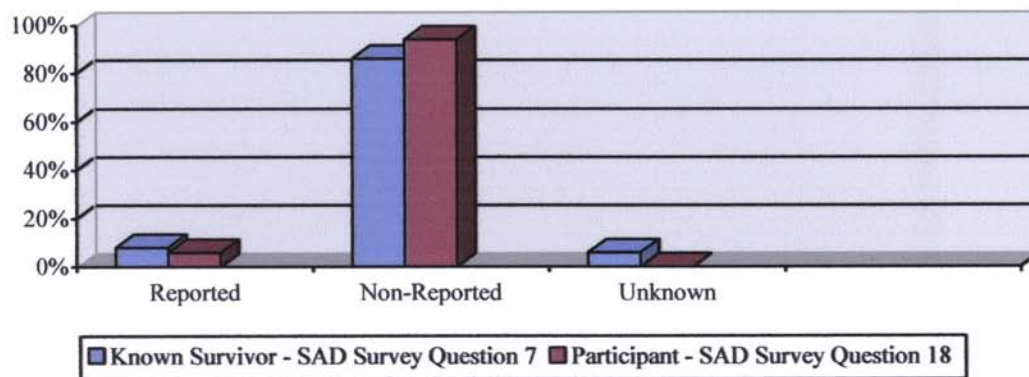
Sexual Assaults Reported to Police



When comparing the answers of SAD Survey questions 7 and 18, the Graph 2 shows the consistency between reporting and non-reporting.

Graph 2

Comparison of Reporting and Non-Reporting



### *Reasons for Reporting the Sexual Assault to the Police*

Question 19 asked the participant why they reported the sexual assault to law enforcement. Of the 6 participants that reported the sexual assault, there was consistency among their reasons. In addition, this question allowed the participant to select as many responses as necessary. Of the 6 participants, 33.3% (n=3) said they reported the assault to the police because it was a crime, and 33.3% (n=3) said they reported to the police to prevent further crimes. Also, 33.3% (n=3) marked "Other Reasons". The other reasons for reporting were that parents reported (n=1), pool's life guard reported (n=1), and anger (n=1). See Appendix C for additional information.

The responses to question 19 are similar to the responses of Bachman's (1998) study which used the National Crime Victimization Survey to identify reasons for survivors reporting the sexual assault. Bachman's study listed "Other Reasons" at 46%, "It was a crime" at 19%, and "Prevent further crime" at 18% as the three main responses.

### *Encounter With the Police*

Question 20 asked if the participants had a positive first encounter with the police. Of the 6 responses to the question, 67% (n=4) replied yes and 33% (n=2) replied no. See Appendix C for additional information.

The responses to question 20 are comparable to the responses in Temkin's (1997) study which asked participants about their overall experiences with the police. Of the 23 victims in the Temkin study, 57% (n=13) had overall positive experiences, 30% (n=7) had mixed positive and negative experiences with the police, and 13 (n=3) viewed their overall experience with the police as negative. Accordingly, 87% (n=20) in Temkin's study were positive or partially positive about their experiences with the police. While

the percentage is not as high in the current study as compared to the Temkin study, positive experiences were more common than negative experiences.

#### *Encounter During Medical Treatment*

Question 21 asked if the participant had a positive encounter during medical treatment. There were 9 responses to this question. One participant replied yes, 2 participants stated no, and 6 participants marked did not seek treatment. The comment section contained three remarks regarding the medical treatment. These remarks included “they were gentle and helpful”, “I was not physically touched”, and “Only bruises – no sexual intercourse – someone heard me yelling”. The first remark was consistent with the answer of yes while the last two responses were consistent with the answer of no. See Appendix C for additional information.

#### *Encounter While Working With the Police During the Investigation*

Question 22 asked if participants had a positive encounter while working with the police during the investigation. There were 56 responses to this question. However, some participants answered the question when it did not apply to them. Consequently, the statistics may be skewed. Of the 56 responses, 3 replied “yes”, 6 replied “no”, and 47 replied that there was no investigation. When the participants were asked to explain, the following comments were made (see Appendix C):

- I felt very uncomfortable talking about it
- Didn't want to
- My parents did not want to report it at the time
- Did not totally understand
- Didn't want to deal with humiliation

- Caught the guys the same day
- I never spoke to him again, so I felt that it was resolved after I told him how I felt about it.
- It was while waitressing an obnoxious drunk male
- I didn't want to deal with all of the humiliation
- Caught the guy the same day
- One time was more violent than sexual, but that was his intent. My other male friends pulled the guy away from me before anything further could happen. However, the police told me they could charge me with battery cause [sic] I slapped him, even though he severely bruised me and sprained several points in my arm.

#### *Encounter While Working With the Judicial System*

Question 23 asked participants if they had a positive encounter while working with the judicial system. There were 54 responses to this question. Again, some participants answered the question when it did not apply to them. Accordingly, the statistics below may be skewed. Of the 54 responses, 7% (n=4) replied yes, 6% (n=3) replied no, and 87% (n=47) replied that they did not involve the judicial system. When the participants were asked to explain, the following comments were made (see Appendix C):

- Dropped because I was scared
- The perpetrator wrote me a letter – had community service

#### *Reasons for Not Reporting of The Sexual Assault*

Question 24 asked the participant why they did not report the sexual assault. The

participants had the opportunity to select all of the applicable answers. Table 15 categorizes the 166 responses.

Table 15  
Reasons for the Participant Not Reporting the Sexual Assault

Reason	Percentage	Number (n=)
I didn't think it was sexual assault at the time	29	49
I was embarrassed	19	31
I thought it was my fault	16	26
I was afraid of the perpetrator	10	16
Other	9	15
I didn't think anyone would believe me	8	13
I didn't want the perpetrator to get in trouble	6	11
I didn't think the police would believe me	3	5

The comments ranged from the survivor blaming themselves (i.e., "I was drunk and felt ashamed") to survivors minimizing the assault (i.e., "Just didn't care too [sic], not an extreme assault") to family and friends confronting the perpetrator (i.e., "I had stopped it before it went too far, he was forceful so I decided to leave. I told his/my friends and they gave him his punishment.")). The above comments are common thoughts of survivors after an assault. See Appendix C for additional information.

Many factors can influence whether a survivor reports a sexual assault incident. The responses to question 24 were similar to the results of other studies. Lievore (2002) stated that the majority of women are assaulted by men who are known to them. The relationship between the survivor and perpetrator, the context of the assault, and the

survivor's personal barriers often deter women from reporting the sexual assault. In addition, the legal system may pose another barrier. Consequently, many sexual assaults will continue to remain unreported.

Bachman's (1998) study listed similar reasons and responses to the same question. However, Bachman's study listed the most common responses as a "Private matter, took care of it informally" at 22% and "Afraid of reprisal by offender or others" at 14%. Although these responses were included in Question 24, the percentages and frequencies were not as high as in Bachman's study. However, it must be noted that the responses of informally taking care of the assault and fear of the perpetrator were definitely factors in not reporting the sexual assault.

#### *Participant's Age at the Time of the Sexual Assault*

Question 25 asked the age of the survivor at the time of the sexual assault. Of the 106 responses, the range was age 5 to age 22, with one participant responding "unknown". The mode was 18 years old, the mean was age 16.75, and the median was age 18. It must be noted that there was an increase of sexual assaults when the survivors turned 16 and was steadily high until the ages of 20-21. These ages coincide with first experiences for young women--dates, proms, graduations, driving, and moving away to colleges and universities.

#### *Time it Took the Participant to Tell Someone*

Question 26 asked participants to identify the length of time before they disclosed the sexual assault to someone. Of the 100 responses, 43% (n=43) responded to days with the most frequent response being 1 day or less (n=27). Twenty four percent (n=24) responded that they disclosed the sexual assault in a matter of months, with 3 months as



the most frequent response (n=8). The next response was "I've never told anyone" which consisted of 21% (n=21). The least frequent response was "years", accounting for 12% (n=12). The years ranged from 1-14. See Appendix C for additional information.

#### *Support From Person(s) After Disclosure of the Sexual Assault*

Question 27 asked the participant about the support they received when they disclosed their assault to someone. Of the 78 responses, 90% (n=70) responded yes and 10% (n=8) responded no. There were numerous positive comments provided by the survivors about the support of friends/family members. The positive responses included, "They assured me it wasn't my fault", "My mom was sad but understanding", and "Offered to take me to the hospital, stayed with me, a friend offered to go to counseling with me." The negative responses of others were victim-blaming or minimizing. Examples included, "They didn't believe me", "Know [sic] one thought it was sexual assault" and "Didn't think it was a big deal." See Appendix C for additional responses.

#### *Person(s) Whom Participant's Sexual Assault was Disclosed*

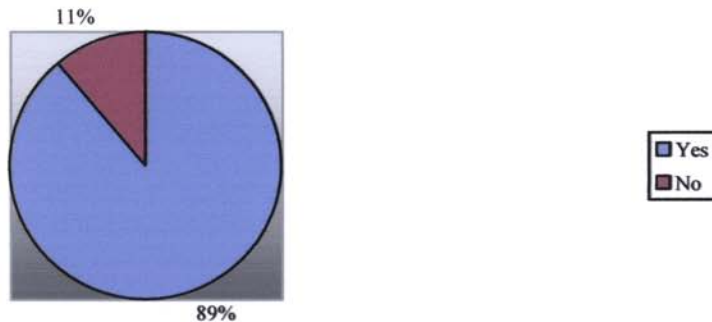
Question 28 asked participants to whom they disclosed their assault. Question 28 focused on other individuals than the police. Of the 105 responses, 62% (n=65) disclosed their sexual assault to a friend. The second most frequent response was family member at 19% (n=20). Of the family member relationships, mom (n=7) and parents (n=6) were most commonly identified. Others family relations included siblings and others. The participants that marked "Other (Please Specify)" accounted for 7% (n=8), with all participants identifying their boyfriend (n=8).

*Participants and Sexual Assault Counseling on Campus*

Question 29 asked if participants were aware of the community sexual assault counseling service located on the university campus. Of 95 responses, 89% (n=85) responded yes and 11% (n=10) responded no (see Chart 6).

Chart 7

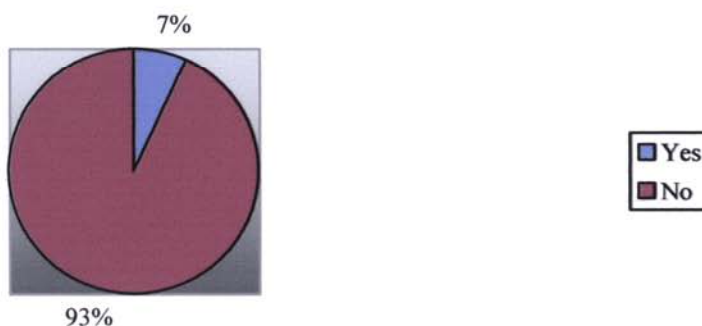
Participants Who Were Sexually Assaulted and  
Awareness of Campus-Based Sexual Assault Agency



Question 30 asked if participants had used the campus sexual assault counseling services. Of the 95 responses, 93% (n=88) responded no and 7% (n=7) responded yes (see Chart 7).

Chart 8

## Participants Who Used Campus Sexual Assault Agency



Question 31 asked if participants found the campus-based sexual assault services to be beneficial. Evidently, there was confusion among the participants regarding this question. Only 7 participants should have answered this question. However, multiple participants answered the question. It should be noted that 7 participants responded yes to the question and there were 7 participants who responded that they used the service in Question 30. Therefore, it may be concluded that 100% of the participants that used the campus-based sexual assault services had positive experiences. One participant wrote that the services were “extremely” beneficial.

*Participant's Usage of other Counseling Services*

Question 32 asked if participants had used other sexual assault or domestic violence counseling services. Of the 90 responses, 93% responded no and 7% responded yes.

Chart 9

## Participants Who Used Other Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Agencies



Question 33 asked if participants had used other domestic violence or sexual assault agencies and whether they were beneficial. Evidently, there was confusion with the participants regarding this question. Only 7 participants should have answered this question. However, multiple participants answered the question. It should be noted that 7 participants responded yes to the question and there were 7 participants who responded that they used the service in Question 30. Therefore, it may be concluded that 100% of the participants who used other sexual assault or domestic violence services had positive experiences. One participant wrote that the services were “extremely” beneficial.

*SAD Survey Comment Section*

Participants were given the opportunity to comment at the end of the survey. The comments were varied, but the common themes included the desire for continuing information on sexual assault, minimizing by of the sexual assault when the participant described herself as the survivor, and that, in hindsight, should have been reported.

### *Summary of Results*

The objectives and hypotheses have been examined and it has been determined that they are supported by the study.

#### *Objective 1: To Determine the Number of Female Participants Who are Aware of Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Assault.*

The results related to Objective 1 can be determined by the responses to SAD Survey Question 1. Question 1 confirmed that women disclose sexual assault to others. Of 370 participants, 339 disclosures of sexual assault were disclosed to family and friends. Of the 370 participants, 180 participants knew someone who had been sexually assaulted. Of the 190 participants who did not know someone who had been sexually assaulted, 13% (n=24) had experienced sexual assault themselves.

An alternative approach was to combine the number (n=339) of disclosures with the number (n=103) of participants who were sexually assaulted. This would increase the number of known sexual assaults to 442 sexual assaults identified in the 370 surveys.

#### *Objective 2: To Determine the Impact of Disclosure on the Participant.*

Objective 2 was to determine the participant's reaction when the sexual assault was disclosed to them. The results related of Objective 2 can be determined by Question 14. Question 14 asked the participant of their reaction when they were told informed of the sexual assault. Of the 453 responses, the most common reaction was "shocked" (n=105), followed by responses of sadness, upset, surprise, anger, sympathy, fear, disgust, concern, worry, encouragement to seek counseling, crying, support, mad, and hurt. The majority of the responses were positive and non-victim blaming. However, it must be noted that several comments were victim-blaming. These comments included "disbelief – she was sexually promiscuous and a habitual liar", "blamed the victim", and

“it had become normal to her”. It may be concluded that the positive and non-blaming responses were credits to the increase in prevention, education, and awareness services that provide non-victim blaming and supportive services for surviving victims.

*Objective 3: To Identify the Number of Women Who Did or Did Not Report Sexual Assault.*

The results related to Objective 3 can be found in two questions of the SAD Survey. Question 7 asked participants if the survivor that disclosed the sexual assault reported to the police. Of 335 disclosures, 86% (n=290) did not report the assault to law enforcement, 8% (n=24) reported the sexual assault to law enforcement, and 6% (n=21) did not know.

Question 18, “Did you report the sexual assault to the police?”, reflected similar responses as in relation to Question 7. Of the 103 participants who had been sexually assaulted, 94% (n=97) did not report the assault to law enforcement and 6% (n=6) did report the assault to law enforcement.

*Objective 4: To Compare the Results of Reporting or Non Reporting Sexual Assault With National Statistics.*

The results related to Objective 4 can be determined by using Questions 7 and 18 in the SAD Survey. Question 7 asked the participant if the survivor had disclosed the sexual assault to the police. Of 339 disclosures, 86% (n=290) did not report the assault to law enforcement, 8% (n=24) reported the sexual assault to law enforcement, and 6% (n=21) did not know. The results of Question 18 reflect the results of Question 7. In Question 18, of the 103 participants who had been sexually assaulted, 94% (n=97) did not report the assault to law enforcement and 6% (n=6) did report the assault to law enforcement.

The results of the current study coincide with Koss and Harvey (1991). In Koss and Harvey's study only 5% of sexual assaults were reported to the police and, therefore, 95% were not reported. In addition, the National Crime Survey (1991) found that an average of 16% of sexual assaults was reported. It may be concluded, that 84% of the assaults were not reported.

*Objective 5: To Explore Survivor's Satisfaction With Law Enforcement and the Judicial System.*

The results related to Objective 5 were determined by using Question 20. Of 103 participants who had experienced sexual assault, only 6% (n=6) reported the sexual assault to the police. The majority 67% (n=4) had a positive first experience with police.

*Objective 6: To Determine the Number of Participants Who are Aware of Sexual Assault Support Services.*

The results related to Objective 6 can be determined by Questions 29 and 30. The majority of the 95 responses, 89% (n=85), were aware of the campus-based sexual assault counseling services. In addition, of the 95 responses, 7% (n=7) had used the sexual assault counseling services and 100% of those participants found the services to be beneficial.

*Hypothesis 1: The Majority of Participants Have Experienced Another Person Disclosing Sexual Assault to Them.*

Of the 370 participants, 190 participants responded that they did not have anyone who disclosed sexual assault to them. Of the 190 participants, 24 had experienced sexual assault themselves. Another 180 participants had sexual assault disclosed to them. Accordingly, 55% (n=204) of the participants have been exposed to sexual assault on a personal level. Therefore, it may be concluded that, although the majority of participants



did not have sexual assault disclosed to them, the majority have been personally exposed to sexual assault.

*Hypothesis 2: The Majority of Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Assault Have Not Reported the Assault.*

The results related to Hypothesis 2 can be determined by using Questions 7 and 18 in the SAD Survey. Question 7 asked the participant if the survivor had disclosed the sexual assault to the police. Of 339 disclosures, 86% (n=290) did not report the assault to law enforcement, 8% (n=24) reported the sexual assault to law enforcement, and 6% (n=21) did not know. The results of Question 18 reflect the results of Question 7. In Question 18, of the 103 participants who had been sexually assaulted, 94% (n=97) did not report the assault to law enforcement and 6% (n=6) did report the assault to law enforcement.

*Hypothesis 3: The number of unreported sexual assaults will accurately reflect the national norms.*

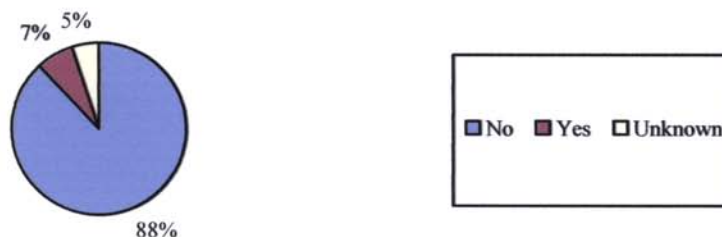
The results of Hypothesis 3 can be determined by analyzing and consolidating the results of Questions 1 and 15. Of 438 sexual assaults, 88% (n=387) of the survivors did not report assault to the police, 7% (n=30) survivors did report the assault, and 5% (n=21) were unknown. Potentially, over 90% of the sexual assaults identified in this survey were not reported to the police. The results of the current study coincide with and may be slightly lower than the national statistics of the study completed by Koss and Harvey (1991). In Koss and Harvey's study only 5% of sexual assaults were reported to the police and, therefore, 95% were not reported. In addition, the National Crime Survey (1991) found that an average of 16% of sexual assaults was reported. It may be concluded, that 84% of the assaults were not reported. Accordingly, the current study



reported 7% as unreported, which is slightly higher than Koss and Harvey's results, but lower than the National Crime Survey's results. Accordingly, it can be determined that the results of Questions 7 and 18 are consistent with other studies. Chart 9 provides distribution of the combined responses of SAD Survey questions 7 and 18.

Chart 10

Sexual Assaults Reported to the Police



*Hypothesis 4: The Majority of Participants Who Have Experienced Sexual Assault Had Satisfactory Encounters With Law Enforcement and the Judicial System.*

The results related to Objective 5 supported Hypothesis 5, as the majority of participants who reported the sexual assault to law enforcement had a positive encounter. The results related to this hypothesis can be determined by using Question 20. Of 103 participants who had experienced sexual assault, only 6% (n=6) reported the sexual assault to the police. The majority, 67% (n=4), had a positive first experience with police.

*Hypothesis 5: The Majority of Participants Who Have Experienced Sexual Assault are Aware of Support Services.*

The results related to Objective 5 supported Hypothesis 5, as the majority of the participants who have experienced sexual assault are aware of and have found support through sexual assault services. The results related to this hypothesis can be determined

by Questions 29 and 30. The majority of the 95 responses, 89% (n=85), were aware of the campus-based sexual assault counseling services.

*Hypothesis 6: The majority of participants who have experienced sexual assaults have utilized support services.*

The results related to Objective 6 supported Hypothesis 6. Of the 95 responses, 7% (n=7) had used the sexual assault counseling services and 100% of those participants found the services to be beneficial. Accordingly, a small about of participants have utilized the campus-based sexual assault agency.

The results of the current study support the six hypotheses. In addition, the current study is supported by benchmark national studies that have been conducted over the past 10 to 15 years. The current study indicated that sexual assault is enormously under-reported and, accordingly, perpetrators are not being held accountable for their actions to a large degree. For additional information regarding the results, see Appendix C.

## Chapter V

### *Conclusion, Implications, and Recommendations*

The current study was completed to determine the frequency of non-reporting of sexual assault relating to a university campus. The results of the study were compared to national statistics to determine if a relationship exists. The purpose of this study was to examine disclosure, formal reporting, and support services relating to sexual assault. The decision to include only females was due in part to a large number of survivors being female. First, the study explored the disclosure or non-disclosure of sexual assault by friends or family members to the participant. Second, the study identified how many participants have experienced sexual assault. Third, the study explored whether survivors reported the sexual assault incident. Fourth, the study explored the participant's experience(s) with law enforcement and support services in relation to the sexual assault. The results of the study will be compared to national statistics.

The current study was guided by six research objectives: (1) to determine the number of female participants who are aware of women who have experienced sexual assault, (2) to determine the impact of disclosure on the participants, (3) to identify the number of women who did or did not report sexual assault, (4) to compare the results or reporting or non-reporting to national statistics, (5) to explore survivor's satisfaction with law enforcement and the judicial system, and (6) to determine the number of participants who are aware of sexual assault support services. Also, the current study was conducted using six hypotheses: (1) the majority of participants have experienced another person disclosing sexual assault to them, (2) the majority of women who have experienced sexual assault have not reported the assault, (3) the number of unreported sexual assaults

will accurately reflect the national norms, (4) the majority of participants who have experienced sexual assault had satisfactory encounters with law enforcement and the judicial system, (5) the majority of participants who have experienced sexual assault are aware of support services, and (6) the majority of participants who have experienced sexual assaults have utilized support services.

### *Conclusions*

The objectives and hypotheses of this study were identified and supported. The results of the first section regarding the disclosure of ages, locations of sexual assault, and alcohol/drug use were similar to the second section of the survey regarding the participants' experiences of sexual assault.

The number of disclosures in this study was consistent with Cowan (2000) and Dunn et al.(1999). The difference between the two studies and the current study was the use of male participants in the prior two studies. The Cowan and Dunn et al. studies had lower percentages of disclosures than the current study. However, the studies included the same number of male and female participants. Accordingly, it may be assumed that the number of males that would not have had sexual assault disclosed to them nor did not feel comfortable discussing contributed to the lower percentages in the prior studies.

The ages and ethnicities/races of the survivors and perpetrators were similar, as determined by the SAD Survey. The survivors' ages at the time of sexual assault had a wide range. However, the most common ages ranged from 16-20. The ages of 16-20 are when females start dating, attending proms, graduating from high school, driving, and attending college. In addition, the perpetrators' ages ranged from pre-teen (ages 11 and 12) and to young adult (ages 21 to 22). The most common ages for males to commit

sexual assault started at ages 16 to 17 and the likelihood increased during the high school and college/university years. The ethnicities/races of the survivors and perpetrators were largely Caucasian, which may be related to the fact that the majority of the participants were Caucasian.

As stated above, most sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement personnel. The current study's statistic of non-reporting was over 90%. However, the survivor usually disclosed the assault to someone, such as friends and family. The time frame of disclosing the assault to someone was mainly within the first year after the sexual assault happened.

The instances of sexual assault occurred in a variety of locations and alcohol/other drugs were involved approximately half of the time for both the survivor and the perpetrator. However, the use of alcohol/other drugs was not as prevalent, as other studies have indicated.

The reactions of the participant when someone disclosed sexual assault to them were mainly shock, sadness, upset, surprise, anger, sympathy, and fear. The majority of participants tried to comfort the survivor and the participants urged the survivor to seek assistance from law enforcement, a hospital, or counseling services. This may be related to the participants' knowledge of the campus-based sexual assault counseling services. There were few victim-blaming comments, such as "she was drunk" and "disbelief, she was sexually promiscuous and a habitual liar".

The last section of the SAD Survey asked if the participant had experienced sexual assault. Slightly more than one fourth of the participants had been victimized by sexual assault. The responses in this section were similar to the responses in the first

section. The ages, races/ethnicities, locations of sexual assault, and the use of alcohol/other drugs were similar for both the disclosures and the participants' own experiences with sexual assault.

In the last section of the SAD Survey, if the participant had experienced sexual assault, several additional questions were asked regarding why the participant did not report the assault and if the participant was aware and used the campus sexual assault counseling agency. The main reasons for not reporting were that the survivor did not think it was sexual assault, embarrassment, and self-blame. All of these responses are typical thoughts of survivors.

The majority of the participants were aware of the campus-based sexual assault counseling agency, but few had used their services. If the participants had used those services, they indicated that they were satisfied with the support.

Comments were stated at the end of the SAD Survey. Some comments consisted of the participant minimizing her own experiences with sexual assault, while others thought the assault to be their fault and expressed shame and embarrassment. Others stated that sexual assault should be discussed more often and additional prevention programs should be implemented.

### *Limitations*

The limitation of this study related to participant honesty. Due to the sensitive subject matter of this study, some participants may not have fully disclosed their true thoughts and feelings. In addition, some participants may have felt awkward or fearful when answering the questions.

An additional limitation was found in Question 8. Participants answered this question with multiple answers and therefore, the answers may be skewed.

Furthermore, Questions 31 and 33 asked participants if they used sexual assault or domestic violence counseling services, were they beneficial. A large portion of the participants who stated that they did not use either of these services also answered this question and marked "no". Therefore, the results of these questions were not accurate.

### *Implications*

Sexual assault continues to be a silent and hidden crime that is underreported. Anyone is susceptible to sexual assault, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, economic status, or education. Also, perpetrators are found among all ages, genders, races, religions, economic classes, or educational levels. Therefore, sexual assault is not a discriminatory crime. However, sexual assault must be taken seriously and, accordingly, everyone should be educated on the meaning of sexual assault, situations perpetuating sexual assault, and the effects of sexual assault on all involved.

In consideration of the age ranges of survivors and perpetrators, prevention programs should be introduced in the public/private school by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Additional prevention programs should be continued throughout the high school years. As documented statistically in this study, sexual assaults began at ages 15 and 16. Further education is also needed on university and college campuses. Prevention programs should be mandatory for both female and male students.

Meilman and Haygood-Jackson (1996) described a mid-sized middle-Atlantic university (45.9% male and 54.1% female students) that aggressively educated students on sexual assault and formed a sexual assault task force. The sexual assault task force

provided an educational workshop to students, developed disciplinary policies, procedures, and protocols, and established a university reporting system.

As noted in Meilman & Haygood-Jackson (1996), incoming freshman were required to attend small-group presentations and additional educational programs were offered on campus throughout the academic school year. Additionally, volunteers ("sexual assault companions") were on-call at all times to assist students by going to the hospital with them for medical treatment, answering questions, and/or providing other support. This program resulted in an increase of reporting of sexual assault. Accordingly, if other campuses followed this procedure, reporting of sexual assault may increase.

#### *Recommendations for Further Research*

Based upon the current study, additional research needs to be completed. The following are recommendations:

1. Continue to research the non-reporting and reporting of sexual assault on college and university campuses to determine the extent of sexual assault;
2. Continue research on the reasons of females and males for not reporting sexual assault;
3. Continue research on the relationship between sexual assault and alcohol/other drugs;
4. Continue research of survivors' and perpetrators' ages to determine if there is a trend related to ages or life events;
5. Research males as the victims of sexual assault;
6. Research sexual assault crimes in relation to the handling by campus and local police departments;



7. Research sexual assault in relation to the handling by college and university administrative judicial systems;
8. Research blind reporting methods that may be used on campus and by local law enforcement personnel;
9. Research the prevention process and outcomes in relation to fraternities, athletics, student organizations, and residence halls;
10. Research the relationship between dating violence and sexual assault on campuses; and
11. Research the relationship of dating violence on campus and determine the trend(s).

*Recommendations for University and College Campuses*

1. Provide information and education to all students regarding sexual assault;
2. Provide information and education to all faculty, administrators, and staff regarding sexual assault;
3. Offer and provide sexual assault defense training to students, faculty, administrators, and staff;
4. Develop and ensure campus-wide awareness, campus policies, procedures, and protocols in response to sexual assault allegations and occurrences;
5. Research and update sexual assault crime statistics annually to insure that the proper responsive services are available;
6. Advocate for campus survivors of sexual assault;
7. Investigate campus sexual assault on a continuous basis in collaboration with campus police, city/town police, county police, and state police; and

8. Provide and enforce stricter and more severe consequences for perpetrators.

#### *Recommendations for Practitioners*

1. Provide prevention, education, and awareness programs to all students, faculty, administrators, and staff;
2. Advocate to law enforcement personnel;
3. Continually research and maintain awareness of campus sexual assault; and
4. Discuss and propose a blind reporting system to campus and local law enforcement.

#### *Summary*

Sexual assault leaves survivors feeling ashamed and embarrassed. These feelings are due in part to the victimization the perpetrator, societal views, and common myths. We live in a culture that continuously victimizes women in the media, as well as in society. A female is typically judged by her appearance and clothing when, in fact, she should be viewed in terms of her inner personal qualities. However, with education and prevention programs, views and perceptions may be reshaped and reformed.

Is it possible to live in a culture with no violence? The answer is absolutely, but it takes commitment and collaborative efforts to become violence-free. Prevention programs starting in earlier schools years and continuing through university and college years, as well as the work place should be conducted annually. Without prevention, education, and awareness programs, women will continue to feel victimized, minimize

the assault experience, and never report the assault. Therefore, the perpetrator will never be brought to justice reinforcing his behaviors.

Further research is essential to combat sexual assault and victimization. The federal government has developed grants and earmarked funds to increase responsive programs. However, it should also be the policy of universities and colleges administrators to not accept sexual assault and to take a firm stance against this crime. There are currently campus efforts in the United States to create new programs to increase awareness, and this should be the practice of every campus in our nation.

Finally, sexual assault is a significant life-altering experience and changes many women's future outlooks. Support systems such as family, friends, and counseling services have meaningful impacts on women's lives when much seems hopeless. However, hopelessness is often replaced by new-found strengths and personal growth. The two women, Staci and Kathy, discussed in the introduction, have completed their degrees, enjoy happy families, and became advocates for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

Appendix A

**Sexual Assault Disclosure Survey**

## Appendix A

**Sexual Assault Disclosure Survey**

The survey is for a research project to complete my master's thesis at Eastern Illinois University. The survey is confidential and you may refuse to participate. Upon completion, please place the survey in the envelope and seal it. Thank you for your participation.

**Definitions:**

Sexual Assault - forcible sexual relations such as "sexual violence, rape, violation, date rape, acquaintance rape, marital rape, statutory rape, gang rape, unwanted sexual touching, molestation, coerced sex, relationship violence, forcible sodomy, sexual abuse, incest, child sexual assault, and anything else that conveys non-mutual contact of a sexual nature." (Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault, 2003).

Survivor – the person (victim) who has survived the assault. For the purpose of this study all survivors are female.

Perpetrator - family member, spouse, ex-spouse, friend, boyfriend, ex-boyfriend, neighbor, co-worker, acquaintance or stranger who has committed the sexual assault. For the purposes of this study all perpetrators are male.

***Note.*** *If you know of more than one instance of sexual assault, addition spaces have been provided as appropriate (e.g., survivor 1, survivor 2, etc.)*

1. Has anyone disclosed a sexual assault incident to you?
  - A. No one has disclosed sexual assault to me.
  - B. 1 person has disclosed sexual assault to me.
  - C. 2 people have disclosed sexual assault to me.
  - D. 3 people have disclosed sexual assault to me.
  - E. 4 or more people have disclosed sexual assault to me. How Many? \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered "A" please skip to Question 15 and complete the survey.

2. What was the age of the **survivor** when the sexual assault happened?

Survivor 1	_____	Years
Survivor 2	_____	Years
Survivor 3	_____	Years
Survivor 4	_____	Years
Survivor 5	_____	Years

3. What is the ethnicity/race of the **survivor**?  
 (a) Caucasian (b) African American (c) Hispanic/Latino (d) Asian (e) Unknown  
 (f) Other (Please specify)

Survivor 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 5 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who was the **perpetrator**?  
 (a) Family member (please specify relationship) (b) spouse (c) ex-spouse  
 (d) boyfriend (e) ex-boyfriend (f) date (g) friend/acquaintance (h) stranger  
 (i) unknown

Survivor 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 5 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the exact or estimated age of the **perpetrator** when the sexual assault happened? (If age is not known, please indicate "unknown")

Survivor 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Years Old  
 Survivor 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Years Old  
 Survivor 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Years Old  
 Survivor 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Years Old  
 Survivor 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Years Old

6. What is the ethnicity/race of the **perpetrator**?  
 (a) Caucasian (b) African American (c) Hispanic/Latino (d) Asian (e) Unknown  
 (f) Other (Please specify)

Survivor 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Survivor 5 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Did the **survivor** report the sexual assault to the police?

Survivor 1	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 2	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 3	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 4	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 5	Yes	No	Unknown

8. Did the **survivor** report the sexual assault to other people, excluding the police?  
 (a) Family member (please specify relationship) (b) friend (c) counseling services  
 (d) hospital (e) unknown (f) other (please specify)

Survivor 1	_____
Survivor 2	_____
Survivor 3	_____
Survivor 4	_____
Survivor 5	_____

9. How much time occurred between the sexual assault and the time the **survivor** reported/disclosed to someone? Please specify months or years.

Survivor 1	_____
Survivor 2	_____
Survivor 3	_____
Survivor 4	_____
Survivor 5	_____

10. Where did the sexual assault occur?  
 (a) during a date (b) during a party with alcohol (c) during a party without alcohol  
 (d) in the survivor's home (e) in the perpetrator's home (f) in a car (g) other  
 (please specify)

Survivor 1	_____
Survivor 2	_____
Survivor 3	_____
Survivor 4	_____
Survivor 5	_____

11. Had the **survivor** been drinking or using drugs at the time?

Survivor 1	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 2	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 3	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 4	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 5	Yes	No	Unknown

12. Had the **perpetrator** been drinking or using drugs at the time?

Survivor 1	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 2	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 3	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 4	Yes	No	Unknown
Survivor 5	Yes	No	Unknown

13. How did you learn about the sexual assault from the **survivor**?  
(a) individual conversation (b) group discussion (c) other (please specify)

Survivor 1	_____
Survivor 2	_____
Survivor 3	_____
Survivor 4	_____
Survivor 5	_____

14. What was your reaction to the **survivor** when she told you about her sexual assault? (You may use back if more space is needed)

Survivor 1	_____
Survivor 2	_____
Survivor 3	_____
Survivor 4	_____
Survivor 5	_____

15. Have **you** ever been in a situation in which you experienced sexual assault?

A. Yes (continue to question 16)  
B. No (skip to question 34)  
C. Unknown



16. Who was the **perpetrator**?
- (a) Family member (please specify relationship) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Spouse
  - (c) Ex-Spouse
  - (d) Boyfriend
  - (e) Ex-Boyfriend
  - (f) Date
  - (g) Friend/Acquaintance
  - (h) Stranger
  - (i) Unknown
17. What was the exact or estimated age of the **perpetrator** when the sexual assault happened? (If age is not known, please indicate "unknown")
- \_\_\_\_\_ Years Old
18. Did **you** report the sexual assault to the police?
- A. Yes
  - B. No (skip to question 22)
19. Why did **you** report the sexual assault to the police? (Circle all that apply)
- A. It was a crime
  - B. To prevent further crimes by the perpetrator
  - C. Other - Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
20. Did **you** have a positive **first** encounter with the police?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
21. Did **you** have a positive encounter during medical treatment?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
  - C. Did not seek treatment
- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

22. Did **you** have a positive encounter while working with the police during the investigation?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Did not investigate

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

23. Did **you** have a positive encounter while working with the judicial system?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Did not use judicial system

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

24. If **you** did not report the sexual assault, why? (Circle all that apply)

- A. I was embarrassed
- B. I didn't think anyone would believe me
- C. I didn't think the police would believe me
- D. I thought it was my fault
- E. I didn't think it was sexual assault at the time
- F. I didn't want the perpetrator to get in trouble
- G. I was afraid of the perpetrator
- H. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

25. What was **your** age at the time of the sexual assault?

\_\_\_\_\_ years old

26. How long did it take **you** to tell someone?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Days
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ Months
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ Years
- D. I've never told anyone (skip to question 29)

27. When **you** told someone, did you have a good support from that person(s)?
- A. Yes  
B. No  
Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
28. To whom did **you** disclose your sexual assault? (Excluding the police)
- A. Family Member (Please specify relationship) \_\_\_\_\_  
B. Friend  
C. Counseling Services  
D. Hospital  
E. Unknown  
F. No one  
G. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
29. Are **you** aware of Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Services (SACIS)?
- A. Yes  
B. No  
C. Unknown
30. Have **you** used Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Services (SACIS)?
- A. Yes  
B. No  
C. Unknown
31. If **you** have used *Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Services (SACIS)*, was it beneficial?
- A. Yes  
B. No  
Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
32. Have **you** used other sexual assault or domestic violence counseling services before?
- A. Yes  
B. No

33. If **you** used other sexual assault or domestic violence counseling services, was it/were they beneficial?

A. Yes

B. No

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

34. What is **your** age? \_\_\_\_\_

35. What is **your** race/ethnicity?

A. Caucasian American

B. African American

C. Hispanic/Latino

D. Asian

E. Other – Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Appendix B

INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT

## Appendix B

## INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT

## Sexual Assault Disclosure Survey

You are invited to participate in a research study. The purpose of this study is to determine the reporting and non-reporting of sexual assault. More specifically, the survey will determine circumstances of the assault, reaction of the participant when informed of an assault, participant's experiences with assault, and information regarding reporting and non-reporting.

The results of this study will be beneficial in addressing the importance of disclosing sexual assault. Often, the assault is not reported due to a variety of circumstances. This study will provide greater insight on the number of unreported assaults and the reasons. The overall benefit will provide information to the participants, the university, and community agencies in need of further education, prevention and awareness.

Participation in this study is voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any point without penalty. Each participant will only be identified by age and an assigned coding number. Accordingly, confidentiality will be maintained.

I have read the above information. I have received a copy of this form. I agree to participate in this study. Please check yes or no, fill in the date, and return with your survey. Please do not include your name.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No    \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Appendix C  
Sexual Assault Disclosure Survey Results

Appendix C  
Sexual Assault Disclosure Survey Results

1. Has anyone disclosed a sexual assault incident to you?
  - A. No one has disclosed sexual assault to me. – 51% (n=190)
  - B. 1 person has disclosed sexual assault to me. – 26% (n=96)
  - C. 2 people have disclosed sexual assault to me. – 14% (n=51)
  - D. 3 people have disclosed sexual assault to me. – 5% (n=19)
  - F. 4 or more people have disclosed sexual assault to me. – 4% (n=14)

How many disclosures/participant?

4 Disclosures  
 4 Disclosures  
 4 Disclosures  
 4 Disclosures  
 5 Disclosures  
 5 Disclosures  
 5 Disclosures  
 5 Disclosures  
 6 Disclosures  
 7 Disclosures  
 7 Disclosures  
 7 Disclosures  
 10 Disclosures  
 11 Disclosures

84 Total Disclosures of 14 Participants

Range 4 to 11

Total Responses - 370



2 What was the age of the **survivor** when the sexual assault happened?

Age (Years)	Total Number (n)
1	2
2	0
3	1
4	1
5	4
6	5
7	5
8	7
9	3
10	5
11	2
12	4
13	7
14	10
15	17
16	25
17	22
18	90
19	50
20	44
21	9
22	7
23	2
60	1
Unknown	6

Total Responses - 329

3. What is the ethnicity/race of the **survivor**?

- (a) Caucasian – 87% (n=284)
- (b) African American – 9% (n=29)
- (c) Hispanic/Latino – 4% (n=13)
- (d) Asian - 0
- (e) Unknown - .3% (n=1)
- (f) Other (Please specify) - 0

Total Responses - 327

4. Who was the **perpetrator**?

## (a) Family member (please specify relationship) – 10% (n=33)

Relationship	Total Number (n)
Father	3
Stepfather	2
Grandfather	2
Brother	4
Uncle	3
Babysitter	1
Family Friend	1
No Relationship Specified	17

## (b) Spouse - 0

## (c) Ex-spouse - 0

## (d) Boyfriend – 14% (n=45)

## (e) Ex-boyfriend – 5% (n=16)

## (f) Date – 10% (n=34)

## (g) Friend/Acquaintance – 42% (n=138)

## (h) Stranger – 14% (n=45)

## (i) Unknown – 5% (n=17)

Total Responses - 328

5. What was the exact or estimated age of the **perpetrator** when the sexual assault happened? (If age is not known, please indicate "unknown")

Age (Years)	Total Number
10	1
11	0
12	1
13	3
14	1
15	6
16	7
17	14
18	41
19	25
20	51
21	21
22	6
23	7
24	4
25	4
30	4
35	3
40	4
41	1
43	1
45	2
52	2
60	1
Unknown	117

Total Responses - 327

6. What is the ethnicity/race of the **perpetrator**?

- (a) Caucasian – 71% (n=231)
- (b) African American – 11% (n=35)
- (c) Hispanic/Latino – 6% (n=21)
- (d) Asian - 0
- (e) Unknown – 12% (n=38)
- (f) Other (Please specify) - 0

Total Responses - 325

7. Did the **survivor** report the sexual assault to the police?

Yes – 8% (n=24)

No – 86% (n=290)

Unknown – 6% (n=21)

Total Responses - 335

8. Did the **survivor** report the sexual assault to other people, excluding the police?

## (a) Family member (please specify relationship) – 14% (n=53)

Relationship	Total Number
Parents	7
Mother	12
Grandmother	1
Sister	5
Brother	1
Aunt	1
Cousin	2
Boyfriend	3
College Campus	1
No Answer	33

## (b) Friend – 57% (n=214)

## (c) Counseling services – 7% (n=27)

## (d) Hospital – 3% (n=11)

## (e) Unknown – 13% (n=50)

## (g) Other (please specify) – 6% (n=22)

Total Responses – 377

9. How much time occurred between the sexual assault and the time the **survivor** reported/disclosed to someone? Please specify months or years.

Time	Total Number
1 Day	68
2-7 Days	25
1-3 Weeks	16
1 Month	26
2-5 Months	27
6-12 Months	26
1 Year	19
2 Years	9
3 Years	5
4 Years	2
5 Years	2
6 Years	2
7 Years	1
8 Years	2
9 Years	1
10 Years	2
12 Years	2
13 Years	1
14 Years	1
Unknown	63
Years	6
Never Told	3
No Clear Answer	8
Ongoing	1

Total Responses - 318

## 10. Where did the sexual assault occur?

- (a) During a date – 6% (n=20)
- (b) During a party with alcohol – 37% (n=121)
- (c) During a party without alcohol – 4% (n=12)
- (d) In the survivor's home – 19% (n=64)
- (e) In the perpetrator's home – 20% (n=68)
- (f) In a car – 3% (n=10)
- (g) Other (please specify) – 11% (n=38)

Unknown (11)

Abandon Building

School

Park

Behind Club

Sister's Home (2)

Outside

Bar

Dorm Room (5)

Mexico

Camping

Parking Lot

Friend's room

Alley after Bar

Church

Home

Playground

Tijuana

University Campus

Garage

Survivors Room

Total Responses - 333



11. Had the **survivor** been drinking or using drugs at the time?
- Yes – 52% (n=169)
- No – 40% (n=132)
- Unknown – 8% (n=25)
- Total Responses – 326
12. Had the **perpetrator** been drinking or using drugs at the time?
- Yes – 47% (n=154)
- No – 24% (n=77)
- Unknown – 29% (n=93)
- Total Responses – 324
13. How did you learn about the sexual assault from the **survivor**?
- (a) Individual conversation – 86% (n=280)
- (b) Group discussion – 10% (n=33)
- (c) Other (please specify) – 4% (n=12)
- Saw it happened
- Total Responses – 325

14. What was your reaction to the **survivor** when she told you about her sexual assault? (You may use back if more space is needed)

	Total No.
Reaction	
Shocked	105
No Answer	31
Sadness	27
Upset	26
Surprised	23
Anger	18
Sympathetic	17
Scared	12
Disgusted	11
Concerned	9
Told her to seek counseling	9
Worried	8
Cried	8
Supportive	7
Mad	6
I'm sorry	6
Hurt	6
Not her fault	6
Told her to report it	6
Told her I was available to talk	5
Talked	5
Felt compassion	5
Unclear Answer	4
Told her to go to police	4
Disbelief	4
Told her to tell someone	4
Call anytime	3
Asked if she was okay	3
Offered help	3
Call someone	3
What I could do to help	3
Talk about it	2
Guilty	2
Helpless	2
Didn't report it	2
Confused	2
Consoling	2
Identified with victim due to be assaulted	2
Told her to break up	2
Comforted her	2
Survivor and Perpetrator are related to me	2
Hugged	2

Understanding	2
Stunned	2
Assurance	2
Care	2
No clear answer	2
Wanted to take her to sexual assault agency, but she refused	1
Pissed off because I knew the guy	1
Like whoa	1
Never expected it	1
Disappointment	1
Nausea	1
Victim didn't have much emotion	1
Betrayal	1
Let her make decision to support	1
I was ready to kill	1
Unexpected	1
Wrong	1
Wanted to approach the guy	1
A guy she trusted	1
Never judged her	1
Listened	1
No reaction	1
Concerned – Sought info from sexual assault agency	1
Didn't know what to say	1
Calm	1
Horrified	1
Nervous	1
Asked why she didn't tell anyone	1
Told her she's not alone	1
Felt bad	1
Honor to know she trusted me	1
Terrified	1
Didn't do anything wrong	1
Unsure because she had kept it to herself for so long	1
Shocked because it happened to a young child	1
Disturbed	1
Wow	1
Oh my	1
She was so drunk & incoherent I did not understand what she was saying	1
Had become normal to the victim	1
Disbelief – she was sexually promiscuous and a habitual liar	1
Blamed the victim	1
Comforted her because of the assault she had a hard time even 15 years later having an intimate relationship	1
I listened more than anything and I worried about the safety and how they felt about the situation.	1

15. Have **you** ever been in a situation in which you experienced sexual assault?

Yes – 27% (n=101)

No – 72% (n=265)

Unknown and non-completed – 1 % (n=4)

Total Responses - 370

16. Who was the **perpetrator**?

(a) Family Member (please specify relationship) – 3% (n=3)

Father – 1

Step Grandfather – 1

Cousin - 1

(b) Spouse - 0

(c) Ex-spouse - 0

(d) Boyfriend – 16% (n=17)

(e) Ex-boyfriend – 7% (n=8)

(f) Date – 14% (n=14)

(g) Friend/Acquaintance – 42% (n=45)

Friend's Brother

(h) Stranger – 15% (n=16)

(i) Unknown/No Answer – 3% (n=4)

Knew Perpetrator – 82% (n=87)

Stranger – 15% (n=16)

Unknown/No Answer – 3% (n=4)

Total Responses - 107

17. What was the exact or estimated age of the **perpetrator** when the sexual assault happened? (If age is not known, please indicate "unknown")

Age (Years)	Total Number
12	1
13	1
14	3
15	2
16	3
17	7
18	22
19	18
20	17
21	8
22	4
23	3
24	1
32	1
40	1
45	1
70	1
Unknown	7
No Answer	1

Total Responses - 102

18. Did **you** report the sexual assault to the police?

Yes - 6% (n=6)

No - 94% (n=97)

Total Responses - 103

19. Why did **you** report the sexual assault to the police? (Circle all that apply)

A. It was a crime – 33.3% (n=3)

B. To prevent further crimes by the perpetrator – 33.3% (n=3)

C. Other - Please explain- 33.3% (n=3)

Parents Reported

Pool's Life Guard Reported

Angry

Total Responses - 6

20. Did **you** have a positive **first** encounter with the police?

Yes – 67% (n=4)

No – 33% (n=2)

Total Responses – 6

21. Did **you** have a positive encounter during medical treatment?

Yes – 1

No – 2

Did not seek treatment – 6

Please explain

They were gentle and helpful

I was not physically touched

Only bruises – no sexual intercourse – someone heard me yelling

Total Responses – 9

22. Did **you** have a positive encounter while working with the police during the investigation?

Yes – 3

No – 6

Did not investigate – 47

Please explain

I felt very uncomfortable talking about it

Didn't want to

My parents did not want to report it at the time

Did not totally understand

Didn't want to deal with humiliation

Caught the guys the same day

I never spoke to him again, so I felt that it was resolved after I told him

How I felt about it.

It was while waitressing an obnoxious drunk male

I didn't want to deal with all of the humiliation

Caught the guy the same day

One time was more violent than sexual, but that was his intent. My other male friends pulled the guy away from me before anything further could happen. However, the police told me they could charge me with battery cause I slapped him, even though he severely bruised me and sprained several points in my arm.

Total Responses - 56

23. Did **you** have a positive encounter while working with the judicial system?

Yes – 4

No – 3

Did not investigate – 47

Please explain

Dropped because I was scared

The perpetrator wrote me a letter – had community service

Total Responses - 54

24. If **you** did not report the sexual assault, why? (Circle all that apply)

- A. I was embarrassed – 19% (n=31)
- B. I didn't think anyone would believe me – 8% (n=13)
- C. I didn't think the police would believe me – 3% (n=5)
- D. I thought it was my fault – 16% (n=6)
- E. I didn't think it was sexual assault at the time – 29% (n=49)
- F. I didn't want the perpetrator to get in trouble – 6% (n=11)
- G. I was afraid of the perpetrator – 10% (n=16)
- H. Other (Please specify) – 9% (n=15)

I didn't really feel violated – I only thought it was assault by definition

I was drunk and felt ashamed

Told parents, took him to counseling

I was drunk

Resolved by victim

I didn't want to go into it

I didn't think it was a big deal

Just didn't care too, not an extreme assault

One of my guy friends took care of it

My parents handled it

I had been drinking

He pushed me down and tried to take off clothes – there was no touching  
or sex

Waited 14 years before telling anyone

I had stopped it before it went too far, he was forceful so I decided to  
leave.

I told his/my friends and they gave him his punishment.

Total Responses - 166



25. - What was **your** age at the time of the sexual assault?

Age (Years)	Total Number
5	2
6	1
7	1
8	3
9	0
10	2
11	0
12	1
13	2
14	2
15	6
16	17
17	12
18	22
19	21
20	8
21	2
22	3
Unknown	1

Total Responses - 106

26. How long did it take **you** to tell someone?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Days – 43% (n=43)

Days	Total Number
Same Day or Less	13
1	14
2	2
3	6
7	3
15	1
Circle/Blank	4

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Months – 24% (n=24)

Months	Total Number
1	2
2	2
3	8
4	1
5	2
6	3
7	0
8	1
9	1
No Clear Answer/Blank	4

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Years – 12% (n=12)

Years	Total Number
1	3
2	2
3	0
4	2
5	1
6	1
13	1
14	1
No Clear Answer/Blank	1

D. I've never told anyone (skip to question 29) – 21% (n=21)

Total Responses - 100

27. When **you** told someone, did you have a good support from that person(s)?

A. Yes – 90% (n=70)

B. No – 10% (n=8)

Please explain

Yes

She's my best friend and has gone through it too.

Offered to take me to the hospital, stayed with me, a friend offered to go to counseling with me.

Comforted me and seek help

But they didn't really understand

They wanted me to go to the police

Good friends

Went to counseling

They assured me it wasn't my fault

It was scary but everyone was supportive

I told them about the violence, but not the sexual part because I knew the perpetrator and was afraid of him.

I told my boyfriend at the time. He was very supportive

My mom was sad but understanding

I told my new boyfriend and he was there for me and was very cautious to wait till I was ready to do anything intimate.

He just listened to me and told me it wasn't my fault

Brother told me to stick up for myself and kick him in the balls if it happens again

He asked what all happened and I told him me and people that I was with left and he let him know it wasn't okay.

No

They didn't believe me

Know one thought it was sexual assault

It was my fault

Didn't think it was a big deal

Didn't believe me

Total Responses - 78

28. To whom did **you** disclose your sexual assault? (Excluding the police)

A. Family Member (Please specify relationship) - 19% (n=20)

Relationship	Total Number
Mom	7
Parents	6
Sister	3
Other	2
Brother	1
Siblings	1

B. Friend – 62% (n=65)

C. Counseling Services – 6% (n=6)

D. Hospital – 2% (n=2)

E. Unknown – 1% (n=1)

F. No One – 3% (n=3)

G. Other (Please specify) – 7% (n=8)

Other	Total Number
Boyfriend	8

Total Responses - 105

29. Are **you** aware of Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Services (SACIS)?

A. Yes – 89% (n=85)

B. No – 11% (n=10)

C. Unknown - 0

Total Responses - 95

30. Have **you** used sexual assault counseling and information services?

- A. Yes – 7% (n=7)
- B. No – 93% (n=88)
- C. Unknown - 0

Total Responses – 95

31. If **you** have used sexual assault counseling and information services. was it beneficial?

- A. Yes - 7
- B. No – 88 - Some people answered this when they should have skipped the question.

Please Explain

Extremely

Total Responses - 95

32. Have **you** used other sexual assault or domestic violence counseling services before?

- A. Yes – 7% (n=6)
- B. No – 93% (n=84)

Total Responses - 90

33. If **you** used other sexual assault or domestic violence counseling services, was it/were they beneficial?

- A. Yes - 7
- C. No – 23 - Some people answered this when they should have skipped the question.

Please Explain - 0

Total Responses - 30

34. What is **your** age? \_\_\_\_\_

Age (Years)	Percentage (%)	Total Number
25	13	47
26	29	107
27	31	115
28	18	68
29	5	18
30	2	7
31	.3	1
Unidentified	2	7

Total - 370

35. What is **your** race/ethnicity?

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage (%)	Total Number
Caucasian American	89	329
African American	4	15
Hispanic/Latino	3	11
Asian	1	3
Other -- Please specify	.3	1
Asian American		
Unidentified	3	11

Total Responses - 370

Comments:

I feel that sexual assault prevention is very important.

I actually took a rape defense class called RAD. It helps women learn how to defend themselves properly. It's out of Champaign. It's very helpful.

It did scare me a little [sexual assault] and I will be more cautious from now on.

Even though I have not experienced sexual assault nor has any of my friends disclosed the idea of sexual assault, I will be mindful that it can occur to anyone at anytime.

I didn't think until much later that technically, it was rape.

I didn't feel as if it was "full" sexual assault. This guy I knew grabbed my boobs after I said no. I didn't want to make a big deal of it so I didn't go to the police. We were drinking and I know he didn't mean it.

Awareness of sexual assault needs to be increased.

I really wouldn't count some situations as assault that is why I answered no.

I might have been sexually assaulted and unaware. More information besides the obvious need to be told to women so they can have full awareness.

This is a very important subject and should be talked about on a regular basis.

It occurs daily and I hope more people start to report they're [sic] situations.

It's a touchy subject but people need to know what's going on and that they don't have to accept it especially females.

Too many girls never report when an incident happens. I feel that it happens more when drugs/alcohol are involved.

I was scared, but I figured it was my fault since I went over there. What he did made me feel so ashamed. Really tried to keep it on the low down and tried to get through it myself.

I didn't tell anyone for a while but people found out through him that he had sex. I don't remember it.

Serious issue especially on college campus with alcohol.

These girls I talked about had no idea that it was rape. I think girls need to be more aware and educated on exactly what rape is.

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